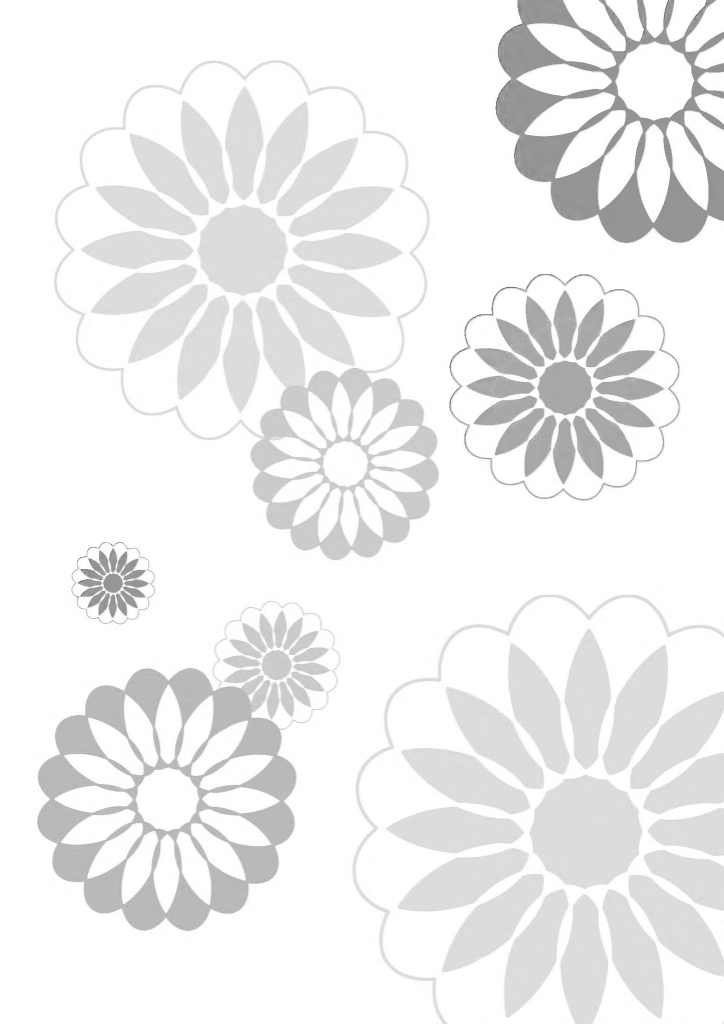
藤島康介
KOSUKE FUJISHIMA
ああっ女神さまっ
18
Oh My Goddess!



Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 18

STORY AND ART BY
Kosuke Fujishima

ORIGINAL TRANSLATION BY
Dana Lewis AND Toren Smith

LETTERING AND TOUCHUP BY
Susie Lee AND Betty Dong
WITH Tom2K

SONG LYRICS IN "MILLENNIUM BLUES," "I'VE BEEN WAITING" AND "MISSING TIME" BY
Matthew Sweet

DARK HORSE MANGA™

CHAPTER 105
Expired Goddess License.....3

CHAPTER 106
Wide, Wider, Widest.....31

CHAPTER 107
As long as You're with Me.....51

CHAPTER 108
Traveler.....79

CHAPTER 109
My Song Is Your Song.....109

CHAPTER 110
What's on the Mountain Pass?.....147

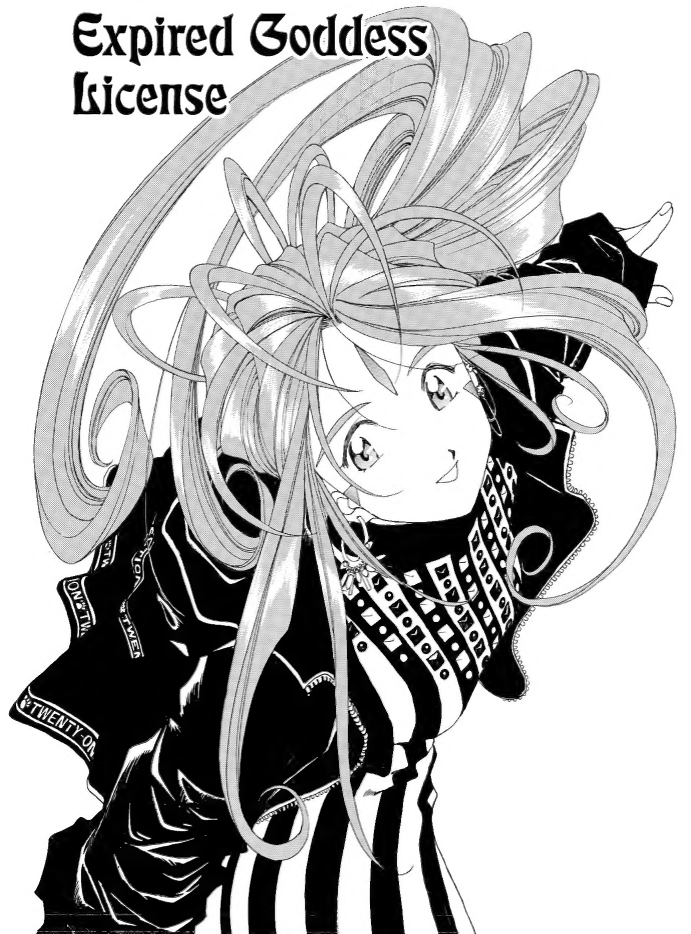
CHAPTER 111
Ghost Found.....175

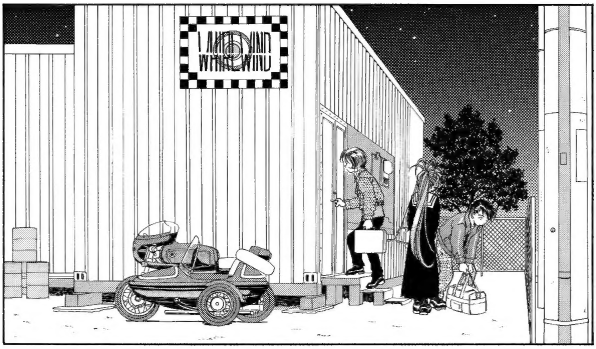
CHAPTER 112
Three Factors.....203

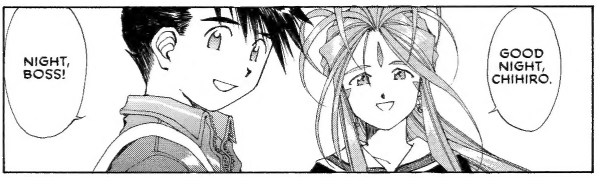
Letters to the Enchantress.....226

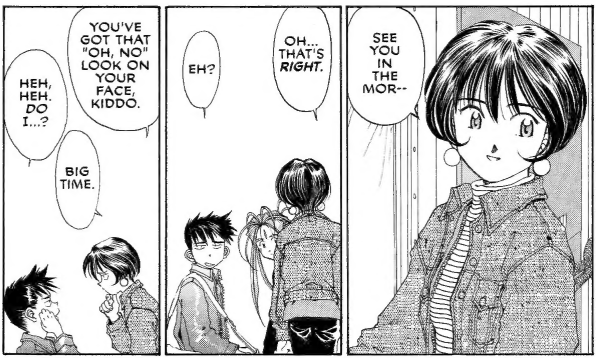
CHAPTER 105

Expired Goddess License

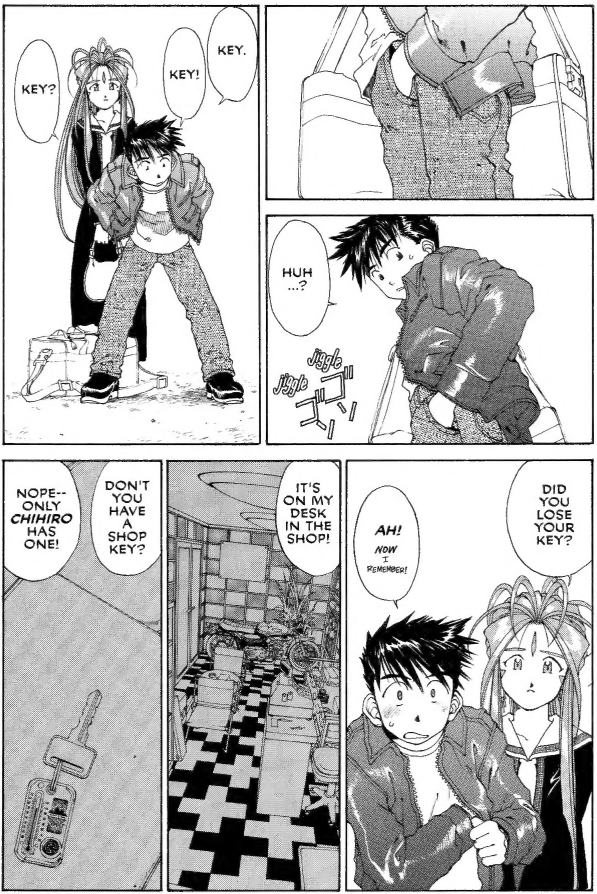




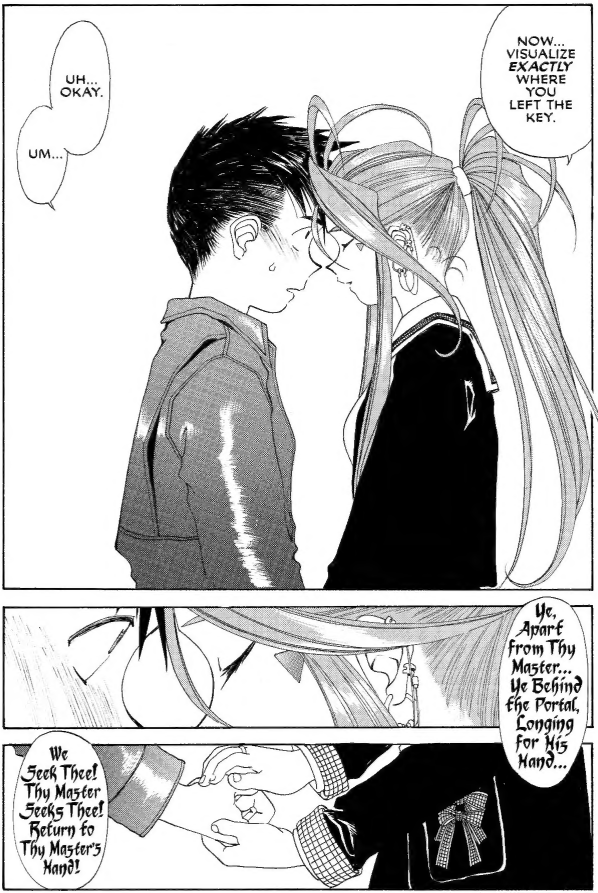

NIGHT, BOSS!
GOOD NIGHT, CHIHIRO.

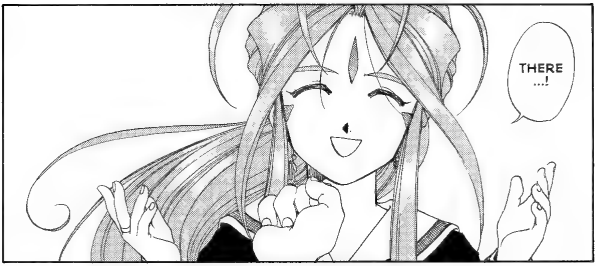

HEH, HEH. DO I...?
YOU'VE GOT THAT "OH, NO" LOOK ON YOUR FACE, KIDDO.
BIG TIME.
EH?
OH... THAT'S RIGHT.
SEE YOU IN THE MOR--

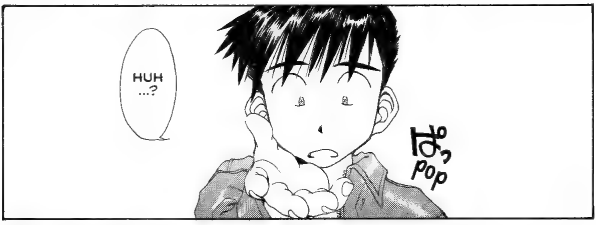
TOMOR-ROW I'M GETTING MY DRIVER'S LICENSE RE-NEWED...
...SO YOU GET THE MORNING OFF.
OH, IS THAT ALL ...?
WHY DIDN'T YOU *SAY* SO?
NOW YOU'VE GOT THAT "YAHOO!" LOOK ON YOUR FACE, KIDDO.
HEH, HEH... IT SHOWS?
BIG TIME.
YOU'RE LIKE AN OPEN BOOK.
OR...YOU *COULD* COME EARLY AND OPEN THE SHOP YOURSELF...
SEE YOU *AFTER LUNCH*, BOSS!
...I CAN *FINALLY* WASH YOU TOMOR-ROW, OLD PAL.

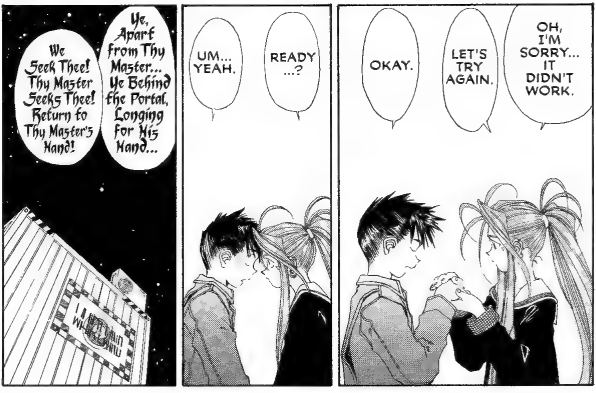

KEY.
KEY!
KEY?
HUH ...?
jiggle
jiggle
DID YOU LOSE YOUR KEY?
AH! NOW I REMEMBER!
IT'S ON MY DESK IN THE SHOP!
DON'T YOU HAVE A SHOP KEY?
NOPE-- ONLY CHIHIRO HAS ONE!

ARGH!
VRMM!
KEIICHI ...?
NOO WAIT ...!
...
?!


NOW... VISUALIZE *EXACTLY* WHERE YOU LEFT THE KEY.
UH... OKAY.
UM...
Ye, Apart from Thy Master... Ye Behind the Portal, Longing for His Hand...
We Seek Thee! Thy Master Seeks Thee! Return to Thy Master's Hand!


THERE ...!

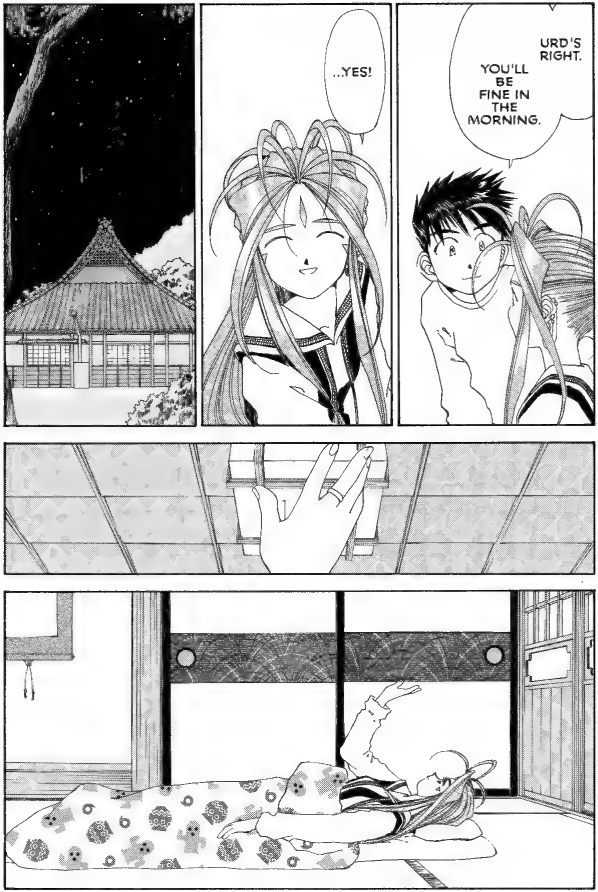

HUH ...?
ぽっ
pop

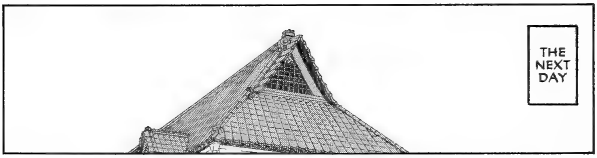

We Seek Thee! Thy Master Seeks Thee! Return to Thy Master's Hand!
Ye, Apart from Thy Master... Ye Behind the Portal, Longing for His Hand...
UM... YEAH.
READY ...?
OKAY.
LET'S TRY AGAIN.
OH, I'M SORRY... IT DIDN'T WORK.

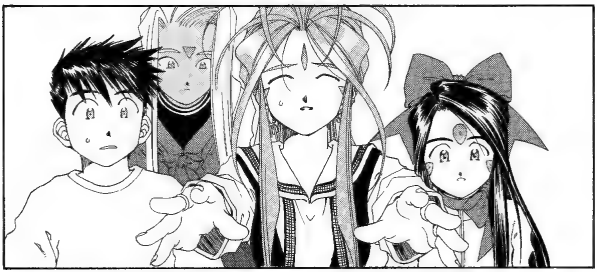
OH, DEAR! I...I DON'T ...?
AW, IT'S PROBABLY JUST THAT YOU'RE TIRED, BELL.
DON'T WORRY.
LET'S JUST TAKE THE TRAIN.
WELL... YES.
...

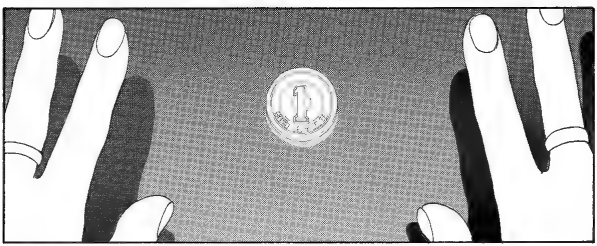
NOW...
...LET'S START WITH SOMETHING SIMPLE, BIG SISTER.

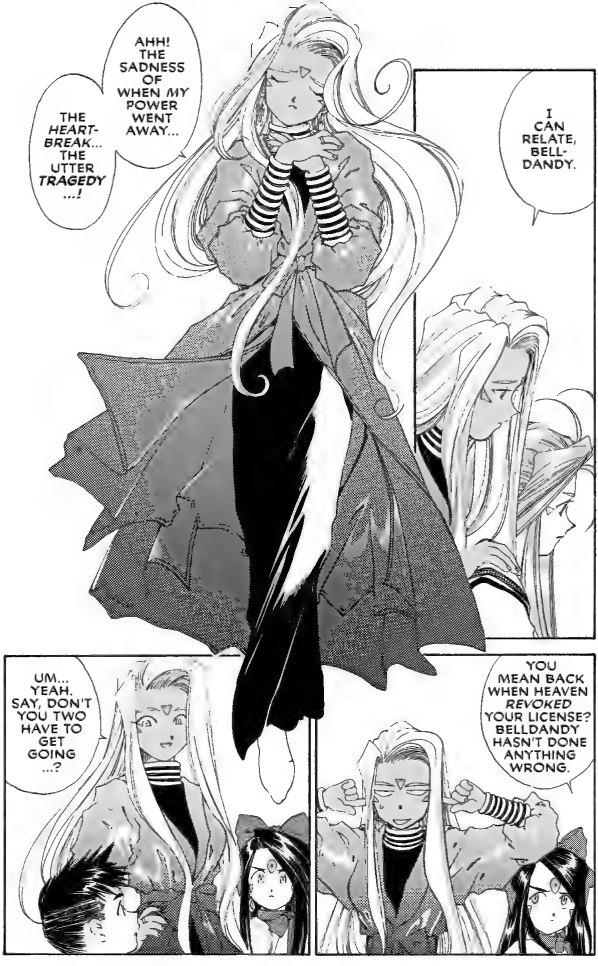
silence
THIS IS BAD.
WHAT ABOUT HOLY BELL?
SHE... SHE WON'T COME. I CALL HER, BUT SHE DOESN'T ANSWER...
WELL... MAYBE YOU ARE TIRED.
I THINK THE BEST THING RIGHT NOW IS FOR YOU TO GET SOME SLEEP.


..YES!
URD'S RIGHT.
YOU'LL BE FINE IN THE MORNING.


THE
NEXT
DAY






AHH! THE SADNESS OF WHEN *MY* POWER WENT AWAY...
THE *HEART-BREAK*... THE UTTER *TRAGEDY*...!
I CAN RELATE, BELL-DANDY.
YOU MEAN BACK WHEN HEAVEN *REVOKED* YOUR LICENSE? BELLDANDY HASN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG.
UM... YEAH. SAY, DON'T YOU TWO HAVE TO GET GOING ...?

OH!
RE-NEWED ...?!
LI-CENSE ...?!
CHIHIRO'S GETTING HER LICENSE RENEWED.
NOPE-- WE'RE FREE ALL MORNING.
THAT'S IT!!
I--
REMEMBER THE TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR LIMIT, SIS!!
PLEASE EXPLAIN...? SOMEBODY ...?
??
CRASH WHAM KABLAM
BELL-DAN-DYYY!! GET ON THE PHONE RIGHT NOW!
IT...IT JUST SLIPPED MY MIND!

BELL-DANDY, GODDESS FIRST CLASS, TYPE TWO, UNLIMITED.
ALL RIGHT.
YES... YES.
THAT'S CORRECT.
OH. I SEE. OF COURSE.
IT WILL ...?
ki-ing-gg
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
I WILL.
SO? WHAT'D THEY SAY?

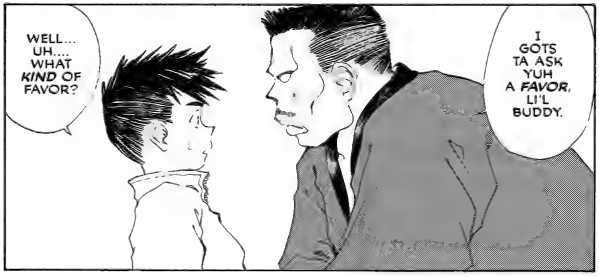
IT'S SUSPENDED.
OH, SIS...! THAT...
...OH, NO!
IT... IT CAN'T BE!

...NEVER USE MAGIC?! NEVER AGAIN?!
WAAH!
BELL-DANDY! I'M SO SORRY!
IT CAN'T BE TRUE!!
SHE'LL NEVER SEE HER ANGEL AGAIN... NEVER FLY AGAIN...

I JUST FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT.
IF YOU DON'T RENEW BEFORE IT EXPIRES, IT TAKES A WEEK TO PROCESS THE PAPERS.
NO SPELLS FOR A WHOLE WEEK?
J-JUST A WEEK?
WHY, YES!
OH. WELL! GOSH! A WEEK... THAT'S NOT TOO BAD...
PINGG PONGG
HEY, MORISATO!!
UH-OH.

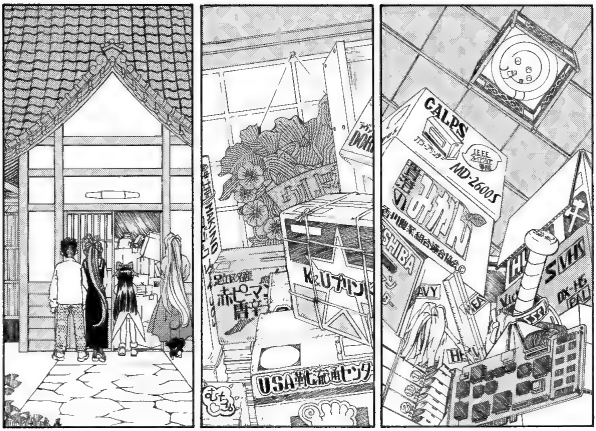
WHAS-
SUP?!

H-HEY, SEMPAI... HOW'S IT GOING?
WHY NOW?
ARGH


I GOTS TA ASK YUH A FAVOR, LI'L BUDDY.
WELL... UH.... WHAT KIND OF FAVOR?

NEED TA STORE SOME... STUFF.
"STUFF" ...?
WHAT KIND OF STUFF? FOR HOW LONG?
NOT MUCH. NOT LONG.
JUS' A WEEK... OR SO.
-gurk- S-SURE...
A WEEK... SURE... O-OKAY.
HEY, GUYS! HE SEZ IT'S OKAY!
"GUYS" ...?

MILK
椰子菓子
Please, use!
SH
ZUmahiPン


CALPIS
MD-2400S
USA製品直輸入

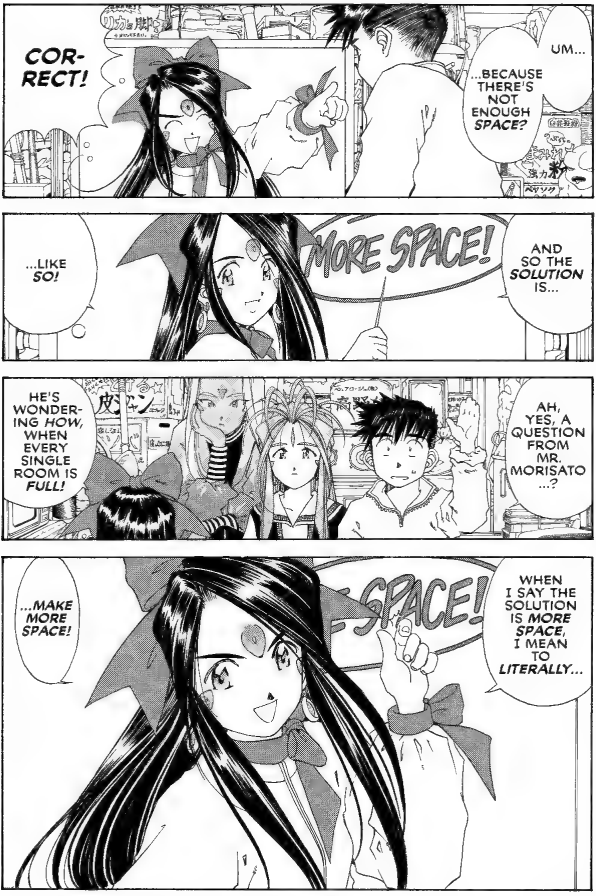
SORRY, DUDE, BUT DEY IS RENOVATIN' DA DORM.
WE GOTTA MOVE *EVERYTHIN'* OUT UNTIL DEY'S *DONE*.

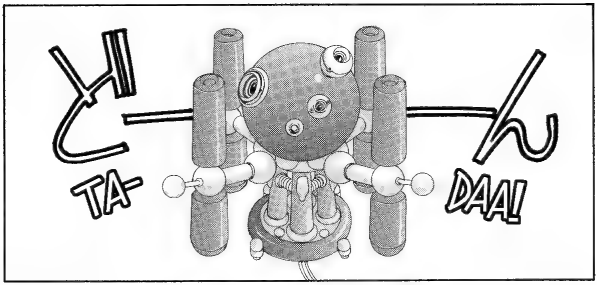
WE APPRECIATES YA ASSISTANCE.
SEE YA WHEN-EVER.

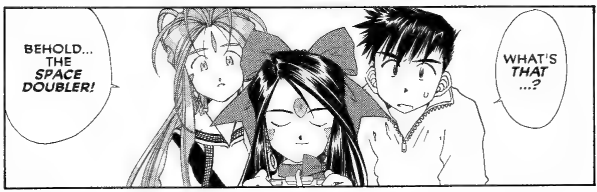
DON'T BLAME ME, SKULD! YOU DIDN'T STOP THEM EITHER!
KEIICHI!! WHY'D YOU JUST STAND THERE AND LET THEM--
"NOT MUCH" ...?!
THIS ?!
SINCE JUST NOW, AND I DECIDED.
I SEE I'LL MAKE A NOTE OF IT.
WHAT?! SINCE WHEN? AND WHO DECIDED THAT?!
YES... BUT YOU'RE OUR DESIGNATED "TAMIYA HANDLER."

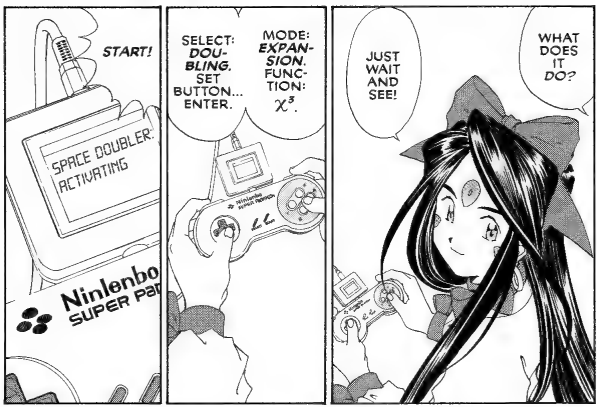
OH, DEAR... IF I HADN'T BEEN SO CARELESS...
...I COULD USE MY POWER AND SHRINK IT ALL DOWN.
AW, SIS...
...DON'T *WORRY!*
LEAVE IT TO *ME!*
OKAY, EVERYONE! BACK INSIDE!
WHAT'S YOUR *PLAN* ...?

WHY IS IT SO HARD TO STORE STUFF...?
SO LET'S START WITH THE FUNDA-MENTAL QUESTION!


COR-RECT!
UM...
...BECAUSE THERE'S NOT ENOUGH SPACE?
...LIKE SO!
MORE SPACE!
AND SO THE SOLUTION IS...
HE'S WONDER-ING HOW, WHEN EVERY SINGLE ROOM IS FULL!
AH, YES, A QUESTION FROM MR. MORISATO ...?
...MAKE MORE SPACE!
WHEN I SAY THE SOLUTION IS MORE SPACE, I MEAN TO LITERALLY...


TA-
DAA!


BEHOLD... THE SPACE DOUBLER!
WHAT'S THAT ...?

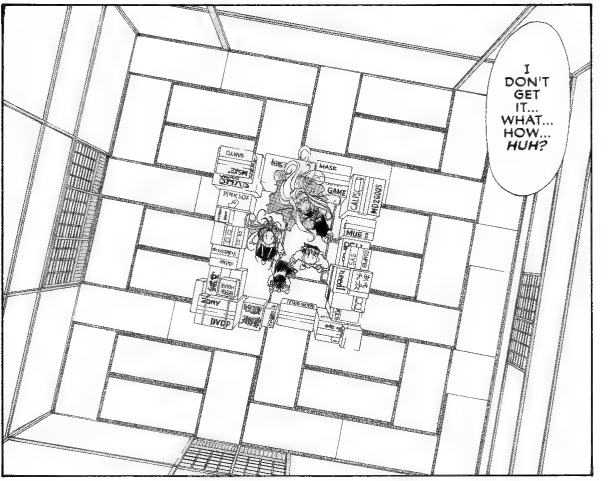

START!
SPACE DOUBLER: ACTIVATING
SELECT: DOU-BLING. SET BUTTON... ENTER.
MODE: EXPAN-SION. FUNC-TION: χ^3.
JUST WAIT AND SEE!
WHAT DOES IT DO?

ガッ
DVD
CLUB
MD2000S
REDFOX
みかん
WHAT...
...JUST HAPPENED ...?

CHAPTER 106

Wide, Wider, Widest

カチャ
ムクリ
ゴルキン
粉わさび
ダイエット
シェークリー
...UM...
UM...


I DON'T GET IT... WHAT... HOW... *HUH?*

I *TOLD* YOU.
THE SOLUTION IS TO *"MAKE"* SPACE.

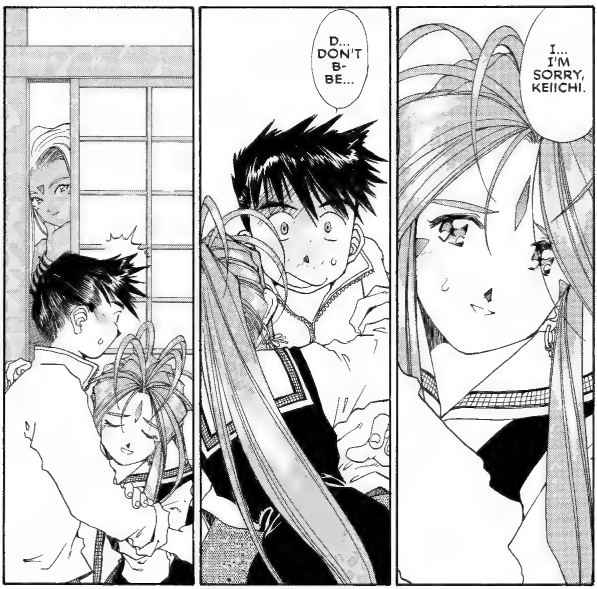
SO, SAY YOU HAVE A CUBE OF PHYSICAL SPACE. IT EXISTS IN *THREE DIMENSIONS.*
FOUR HOURS
ONE HOUR
THREE HOURS
TWO HOURS
DIRECTION OF TIME FLOW
EVERYTHING EXISTS IN *SPACE-TIME*, RIGHT? THREE DIMENSIONS... PLUS *TIME.*
YOU'RE ONLY *USING* THE PART OF IT THAT EXISTS *NOW*, BUT TWO, THREE, FOUR HOURS LATER...
IT'LL BE THE *SAME AMOUNT* OF SPACE!
...INTO THE SPACE YOU'RE USING *NOW?* EFFECTIVELY GIVING YOU A *LARGER SPACE...*
SLIDE
SO WHAT IF YOU COULD SLIDE THE SPACE YOU'RE NOT USING *THEN...*

OKAY, URD, YOU--
AH?!
WHAT?! YOU'RE NOT HELPING?
SO HAVE FUN.
I DON'T GET IT... BUT... AMAZING!
...BY BORROWING AGAINST THE FUTURE?!
I'LL HELP, KEIICHI.
DOOM
HEAVE HO!!
THANKS, BELL.

WELL, AT LEAST NOW WE HAVE ROOM TO PUT IT ALL...
KEI... I... CHI...
MPH!
WH-WHERE... SHOULD I PUT... THIS?
H-HEY, MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO--
WAAHH
HYPER MAKINO
HITHERE

I FORGOT ...!
I... I CAN'T USE MY SPELLS!
ANASUKY
MURTIS

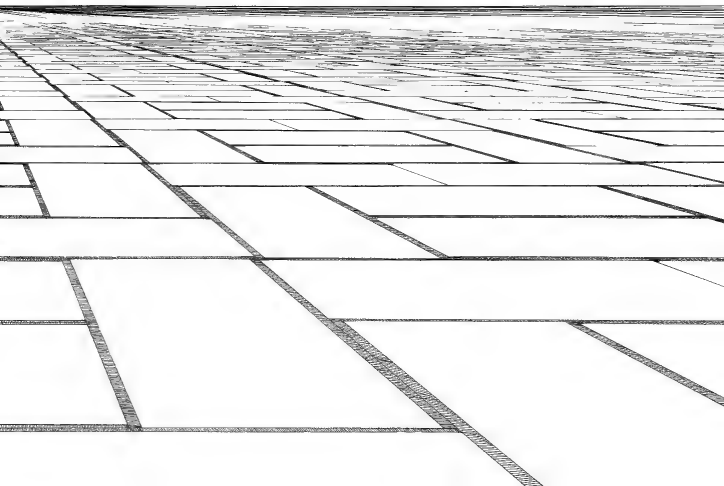
FH235G
5kg
Brother
編機
OGAWA RUBBER
Panasonik
Studio2.0
メーメン
湿炒食品

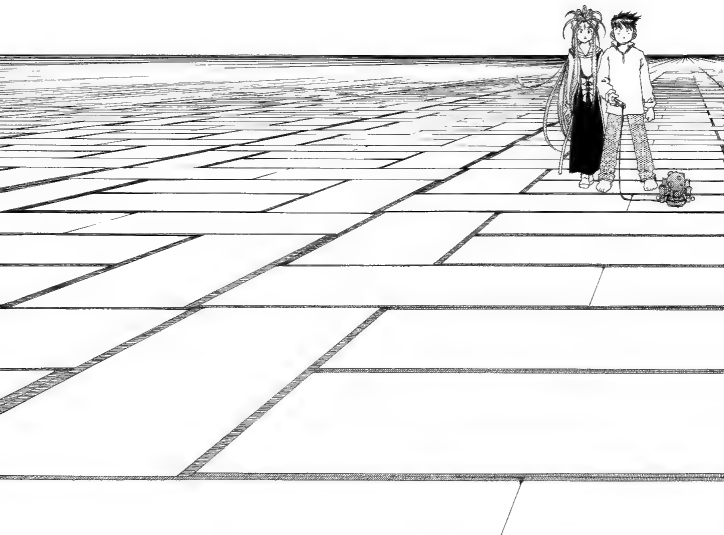

D... DON'T B- BE...
I... I'M SORRY, KEIICHI.

NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT IT.
HUH? AW, IT'S LIGHT.
YOU'RE... AMAZ-ING.
KEIICHI ...?
RIGHT-O! HUP! WE'LL PUT THIS ONE OVER HERE!
FWPP
KATS!
BUT... IF I CAN'T USE MAGIC...
...I'M SO... POWER-LESS.

...
YOU'LL BE OKAY... JUST DON'T OVEREXERT YOURSELF.
WE'LL JUST DO WHAT WE CAN.
HMM... IT'S GETTING PRETTY FULL *ALREADY,* ISN'T IT?
MAYBE WE CAN... ADD SOME *MORE* SPACE?
OKAY! ❤

LESSEE... "FUNCTION KEY FOR EXPANSION VALUE"...
NO, NO... DON'T WANT THAT!
"OPTION MENU"...?
THAT'S NOT "SET"...
EH?
"SELECT..."
??
"MODE: EXPANSION."
LET'S SEE...
YEOW!!



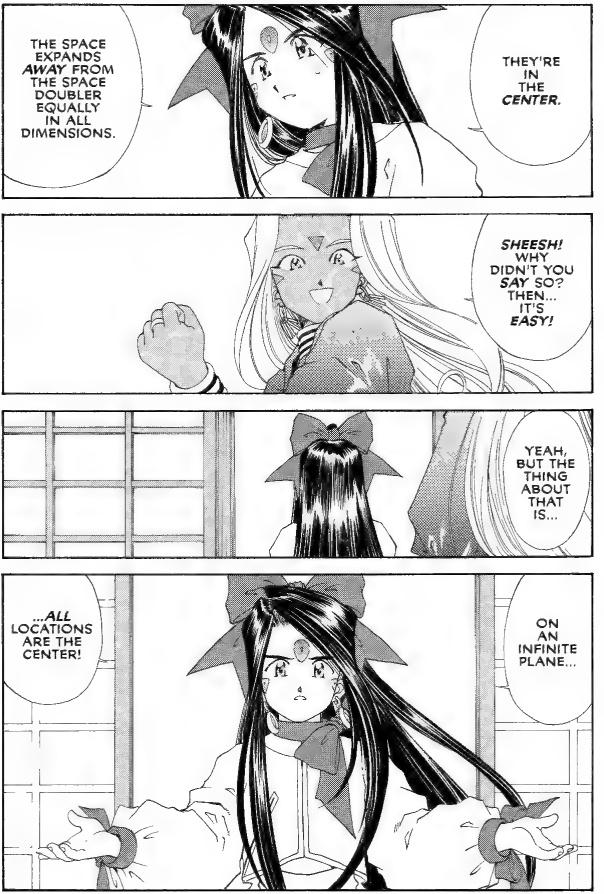


WONDER IF THINGS ARE GETTING INTIMATE YET...?
slip
HEH HEH HEH...
slide
WHA--?!

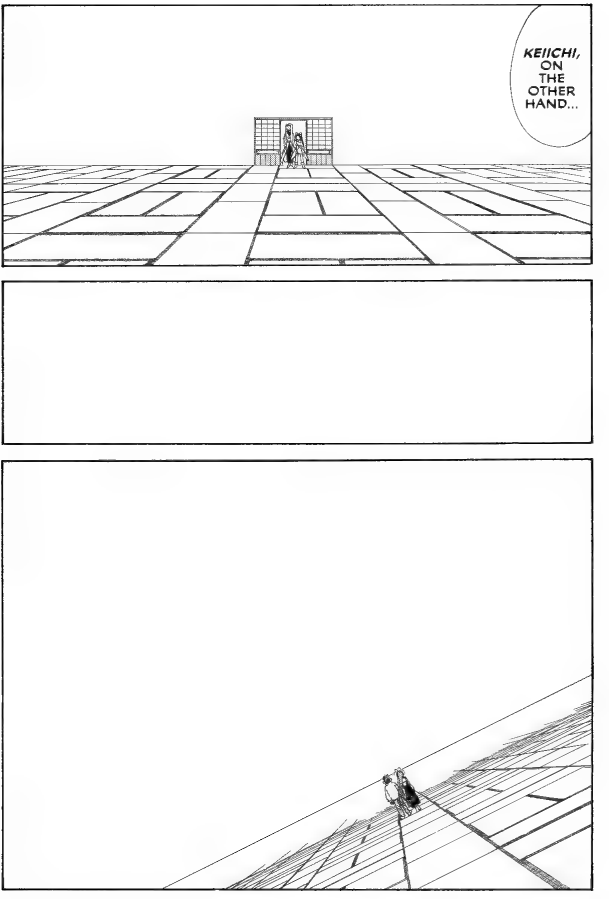
THDD THDD
THE ROOM IS WHAT?!
SKULD LABS
OH, NO ...!

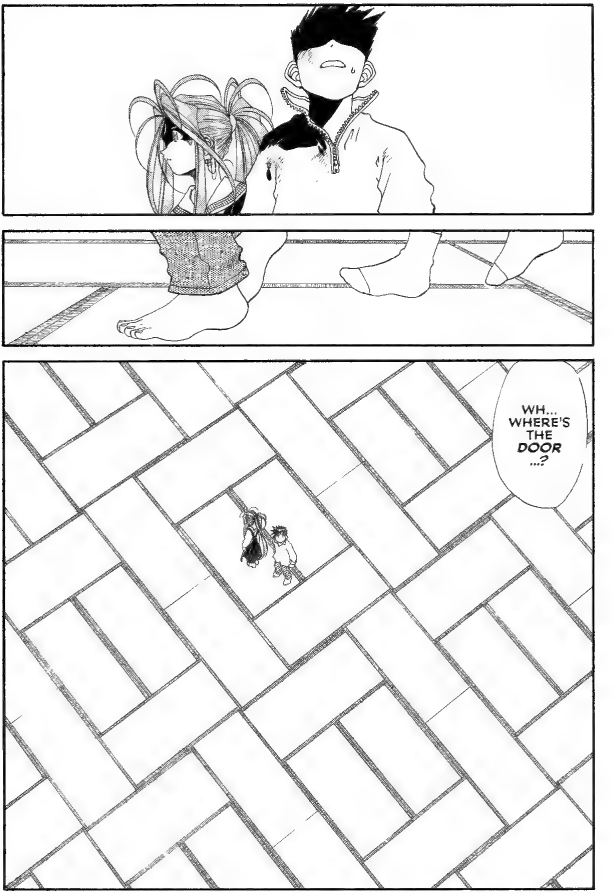
YOO-HOO! BELL-DAN-DYYY! KEI-ICHIII!
FOR-GET IT.
IF IT'S RUNNING WILD LIKE THIS...
...THE ROOM SIZE IS INFINITE.
BUT ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS RESET IT, AND... BACK TO NORMAL.
HOW DO YOU DO THAT?
ON THE CONTROL PAD, IT'S UP, UP, DOWN, DOWN, LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT. THEN HIT THE SET BUTTON... TWICE.
YOU REALLY THINK K1 WILL KNOW THAT?
OF COURSE NOT.

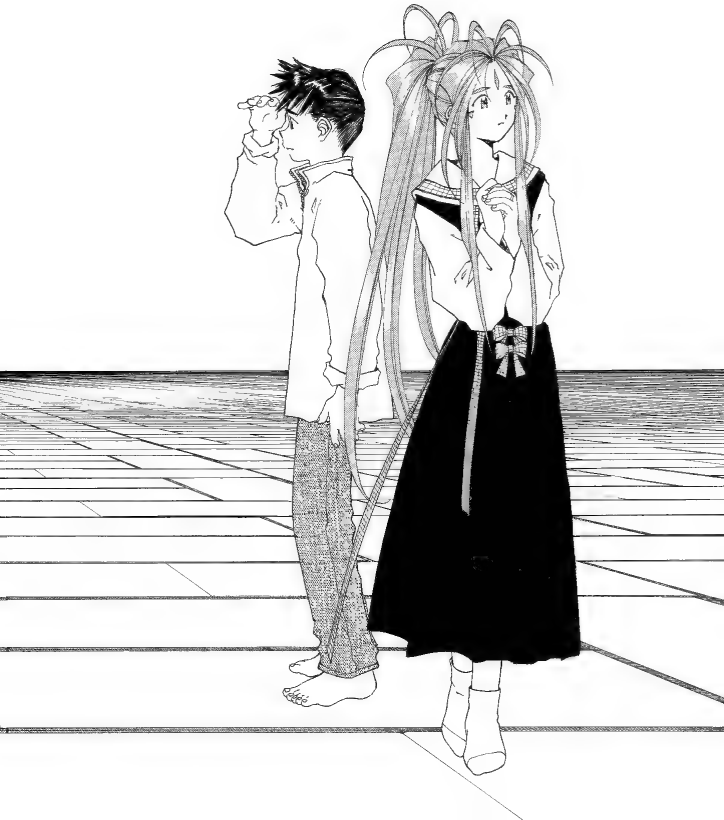
THEN I'LL GO AND RESET IT...
YOU CAN'T.
HOW WILL YOU FIND THEM?
BELL-DANDY'S POWER IS SWITCHED OFF.
OH... RIGHT.
NO POWER THREADS TO FOLLOW...
IF I JUST KNEW WHERE THEY WERE...!
ACTUALLY, I CAN TELL YOU EXACTLY WHERE THEY ARE.
EH? BUT--


THE SPACE EXPANDS *AWAY* FROM THE SPACE DOUBLER EQUALLY IN ALL DIMENSIONS.
THEY'RE IN THE *CENTER.*
SHEESH! WHY DIDN'T YOU *SAY* SO? THEN... IT'S *EASY!*
YEAH, BUT THE THING ABOUT THAT IS...
...*ALL* LOCATIONS ARE THE CENTER!
ON AN INFINITE PLANE...

GET LOST OUT THERE AND YOU'LL *NEVER* GET BACK.
AND IT'S *PERCEIVED* SPACE.
BELL-DANDY CAN HANDLE IT, EVEN WITHOUT HER LINK TO YGGDRA-SIL.
....A-BOUT A WEEK.
HOW LONG WILL THAT TAKE?
WELL, WE CAN WAIT FOR THE BATTERIES TO DIE.
SO WE CAN'T DO *ANY-THING?*

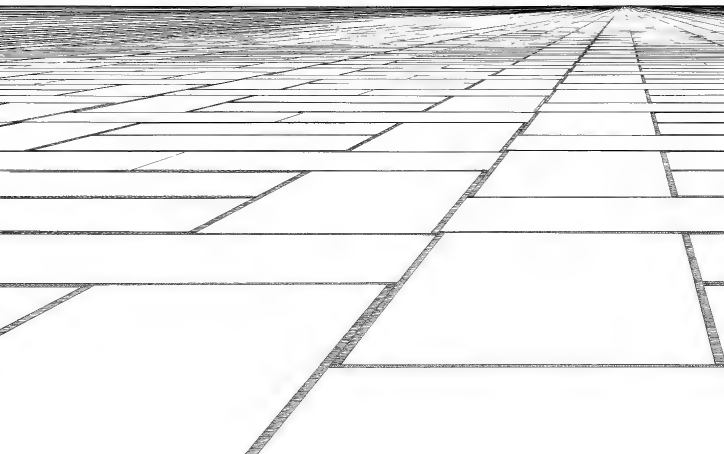

KEIICHI, ON THE OTHER HAND...


WH... WHERE'S THE DOOR ...?



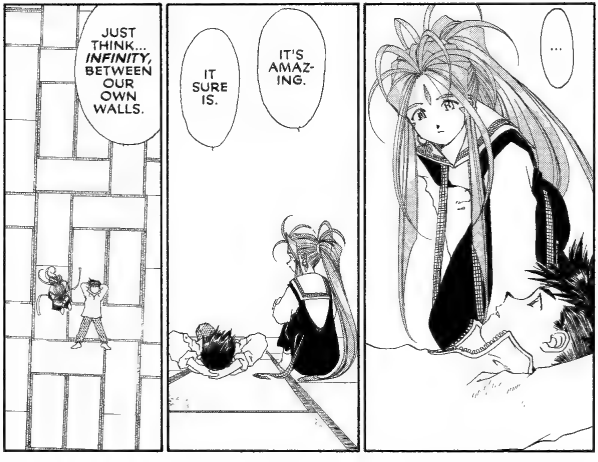
CHAPTER 107

As Long as You're with Me

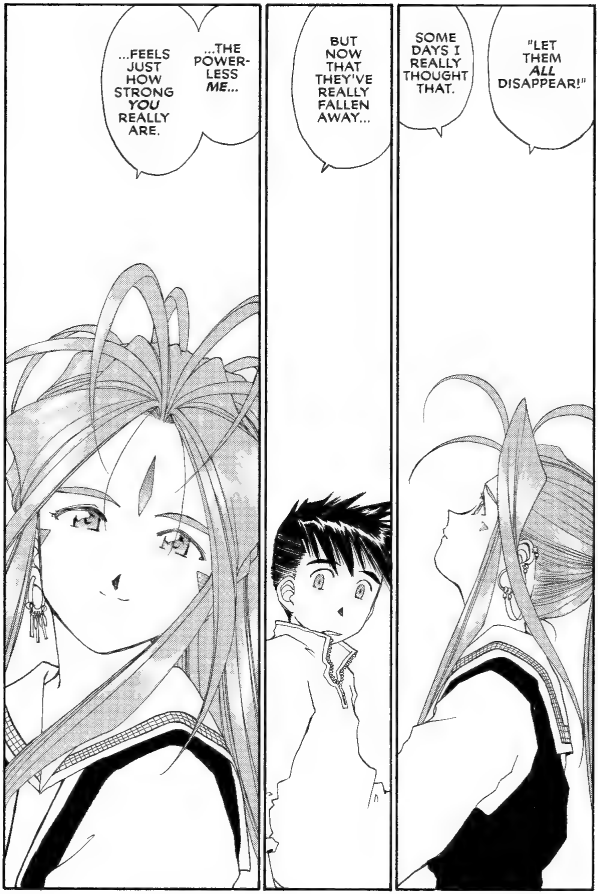


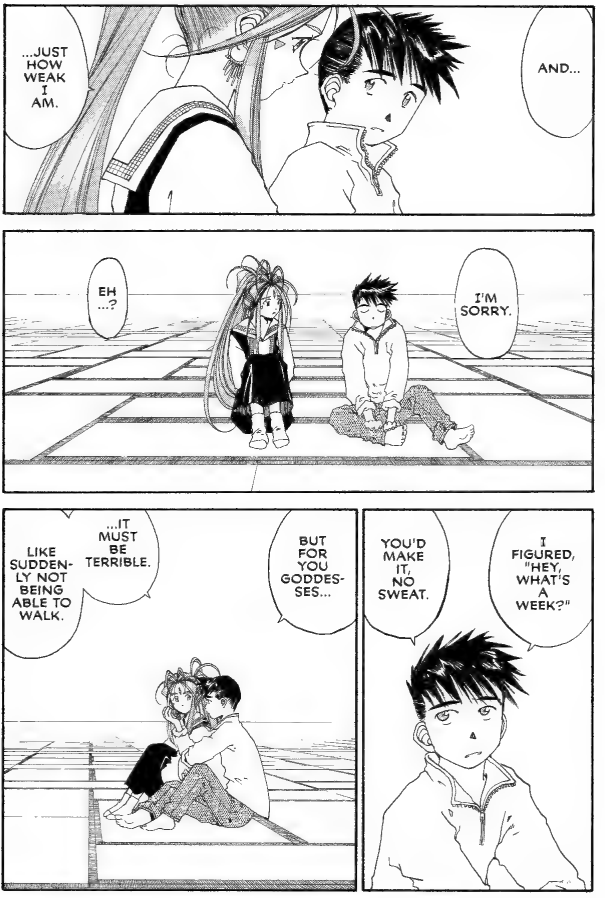
IT'S NO USE, KEIICHI. WITHOUT MY POWERS, I CAN'T GET MY BEARINGS.
WELL, THERE'S NO POINT IN JUST BLUNDER-ING AROUND.
SO... SINCE WE CAN'T SEE THE CEILING OR WALLS...
...THE *ONLY* CHOICE IS...
...?

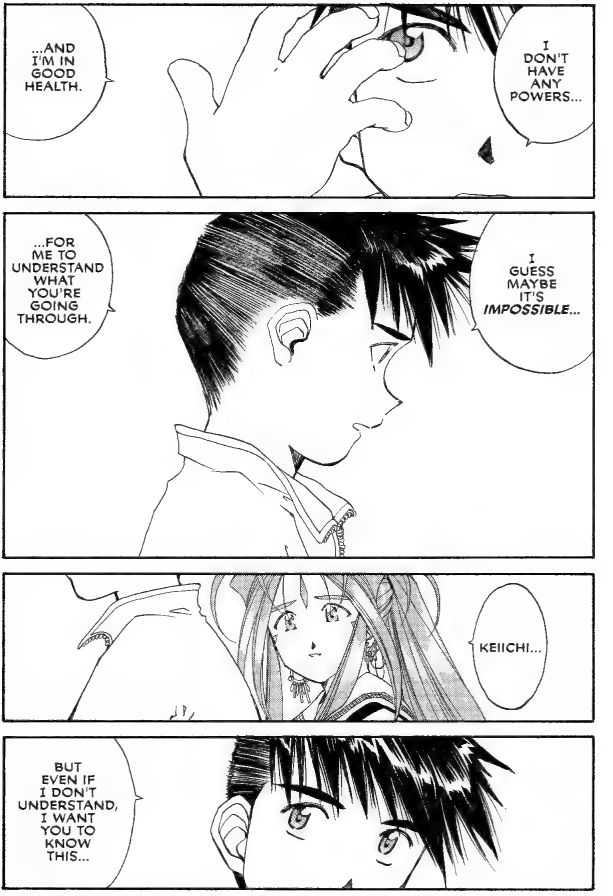
KICK BACK AND WAIT FOR HELP.
ごろん
FWMP

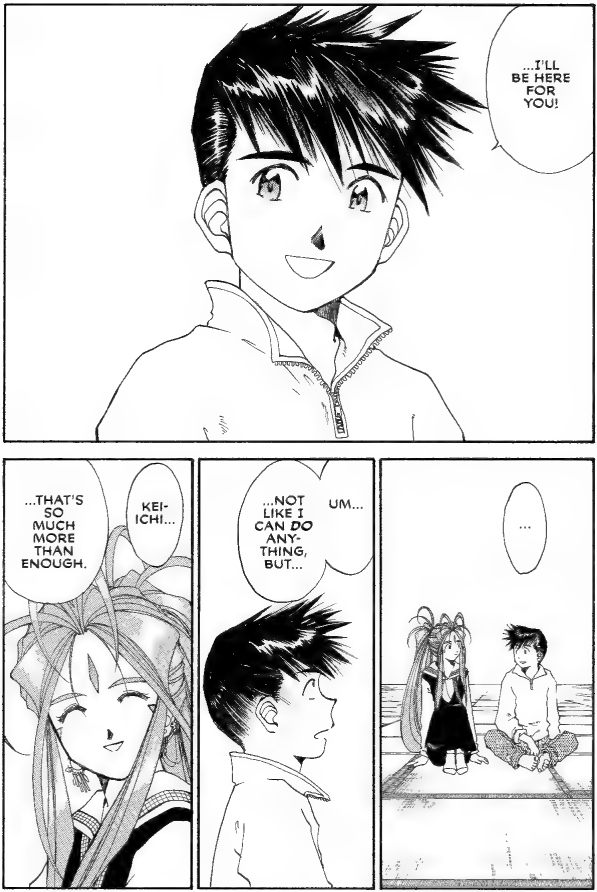

JUST THINK... INFINITY, BETWEEN OUR OWN WALLS.
IT SURE IS.
IT'S AMAZ-ING.
...

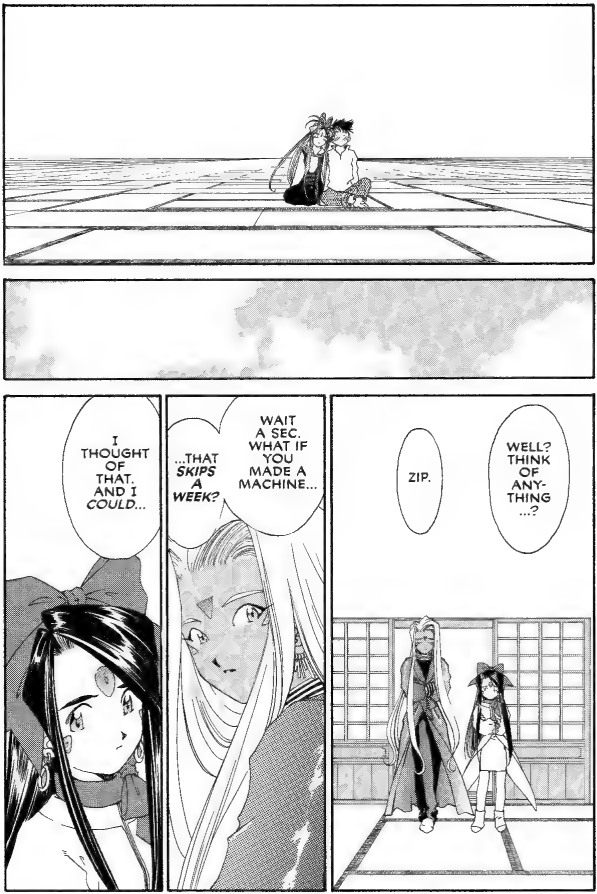
NO...I MEANT *YOU,* KEIICHI.
HUH ...?
I'M FEELING SO *UNEASY.*
RECENTLY I'VE TRIED NOT TO RELY TOO MUCH ON MY POWERS...
...SO I CAN FEEL CLOSER TO YOU.

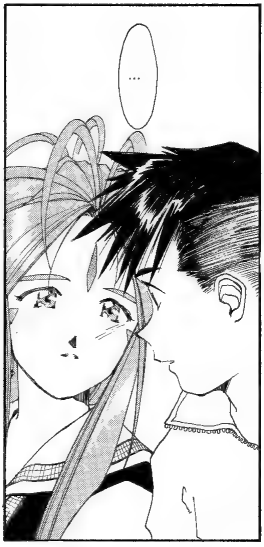

"LET THEM ALL DISAPPEAR!"
SOME DAYS I REALLY THOUGHT THAT.
BUT NOW THAT THEY'VE REALLY FALLEN AWAY...
...THE POWER-LESS ME...
...FEELS JUST HOW STRONG YOU REALLY ARE.

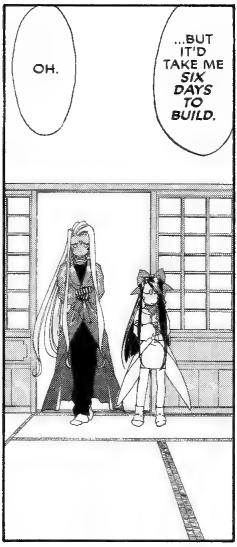

...JUST HOW WEAK I AM.
AND...
EH ...?
I'M SORRY.
...IT MUST BE TERRIBLE.
LIKE SUDDEN-LY NOT BEING ABLE TO WALK.
BUT FOR YOU GODDES-SES...
YOU'D MAKE IT, NO SWEAT.
I FIGURED, "HEY, WHAT'S A WEEK?"

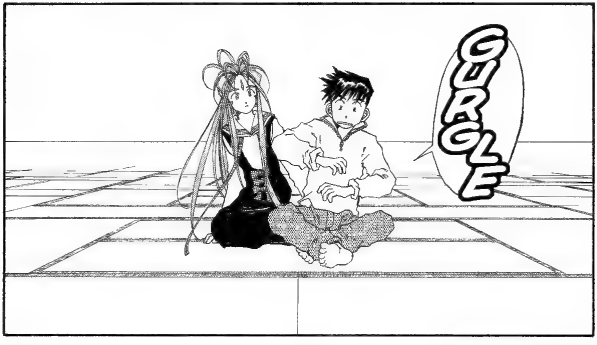

...AND I'M IN GOOD HEALTH.
I DON'T HAVE ANY POWERS...
...FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH.
I GUESS MAYBE IT'S *IMPOSSIBLE...*
KEIICHI...
BUT EVEN IF I DON'T UNDERSTAND, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THIS...


...I'LL BE HERE FOR YOU!
...
UM...
...NOT LIKE I CAN *DO* ANY-THING, BUT...
KEI-ICHI...
...THAT'S SO MUCH MORE THAN ENOUGH.

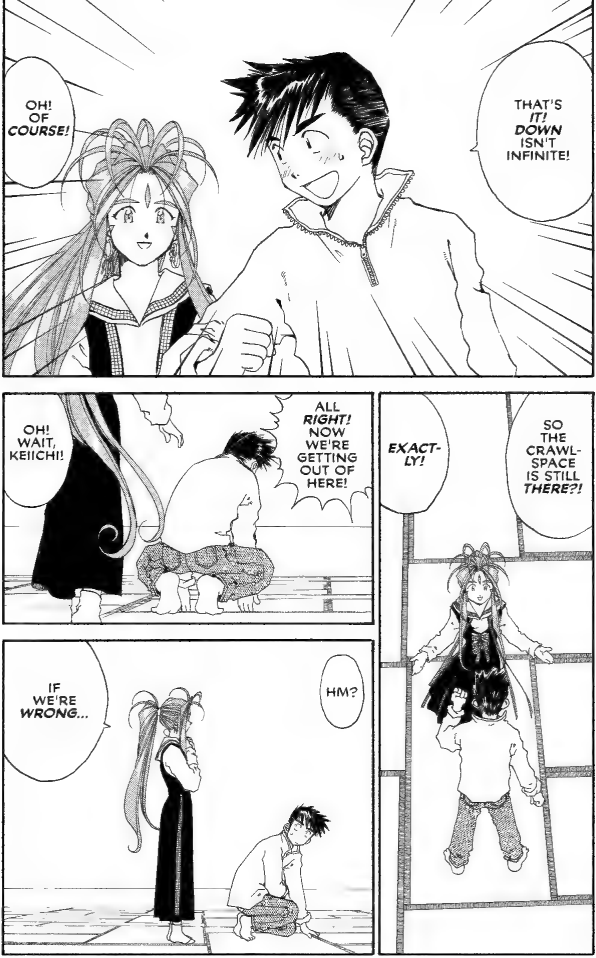

WELL? THINK OF ANY-THING ...?
ZIP.
WAIT A SEC. WHAT IF YOU MADE A MACHINE...
...THAT SKIPS A WEEK?
I THOUGHT OF THAT. AND I COULD...


...

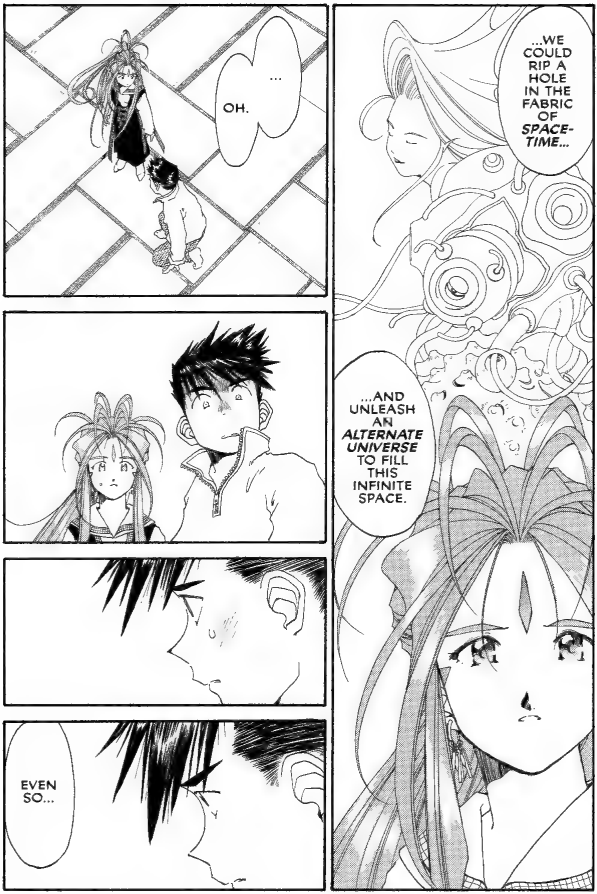

OH.
...BUT IT'D TAKE ME SIX DAYS TO BUILD.

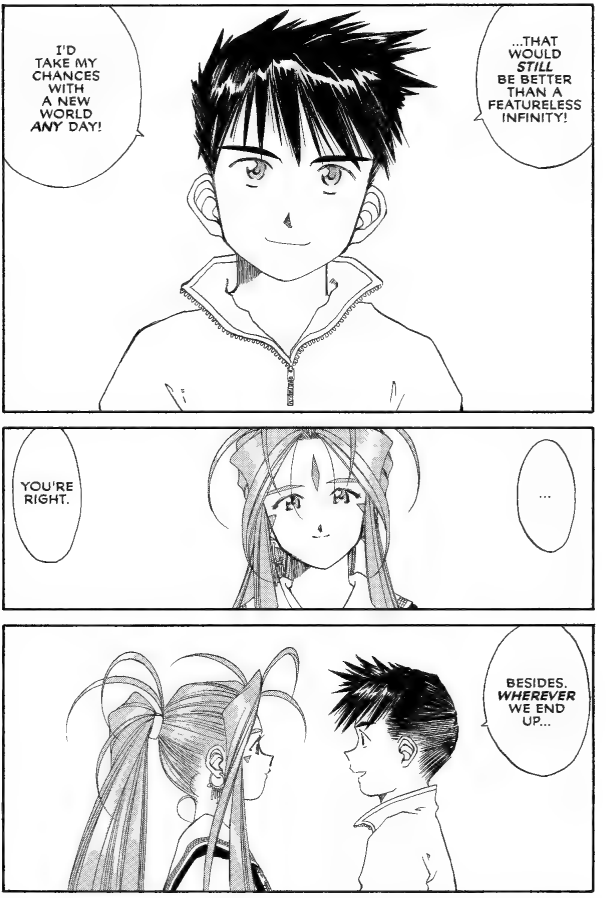

GURGLE

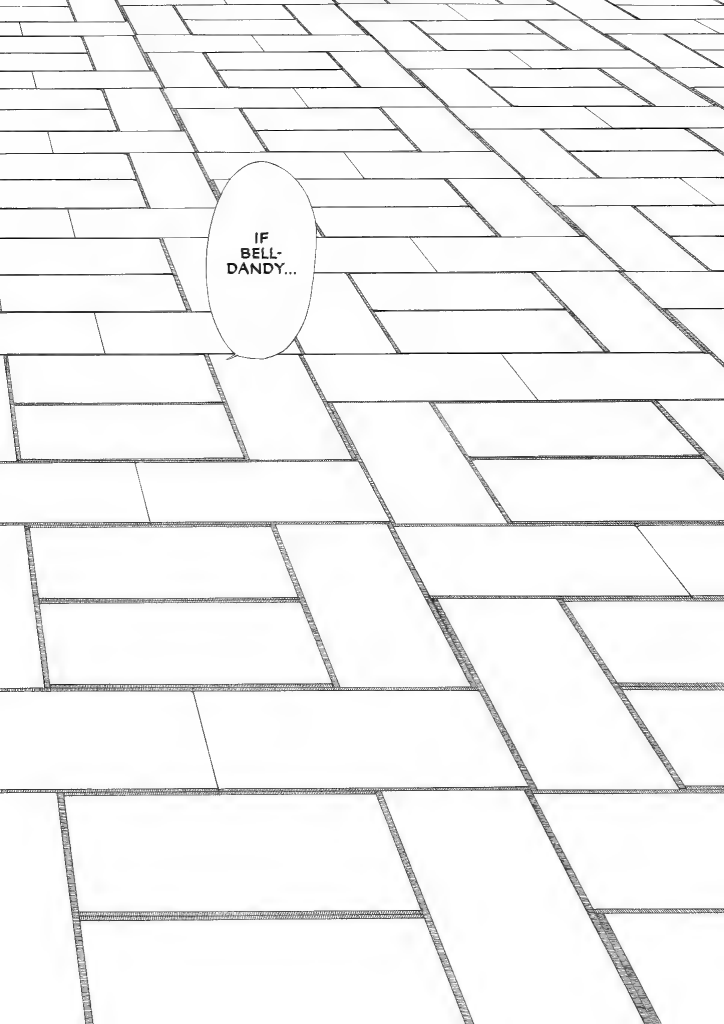
...JUST TRYING TO GET URD AND SKULD'S ATTENTION!
ER...
FOUND
FOUND
HM...
WHAT'S WRONG?
PERFECT TIMING, MORISATO! YOU IDIOT!
INFINITE, UNTOUCHABLE CEILING, INFINITE, UNTOUCHABLE WALLS.
INFINITE, STOMPABLE FLOOR...
DOOM

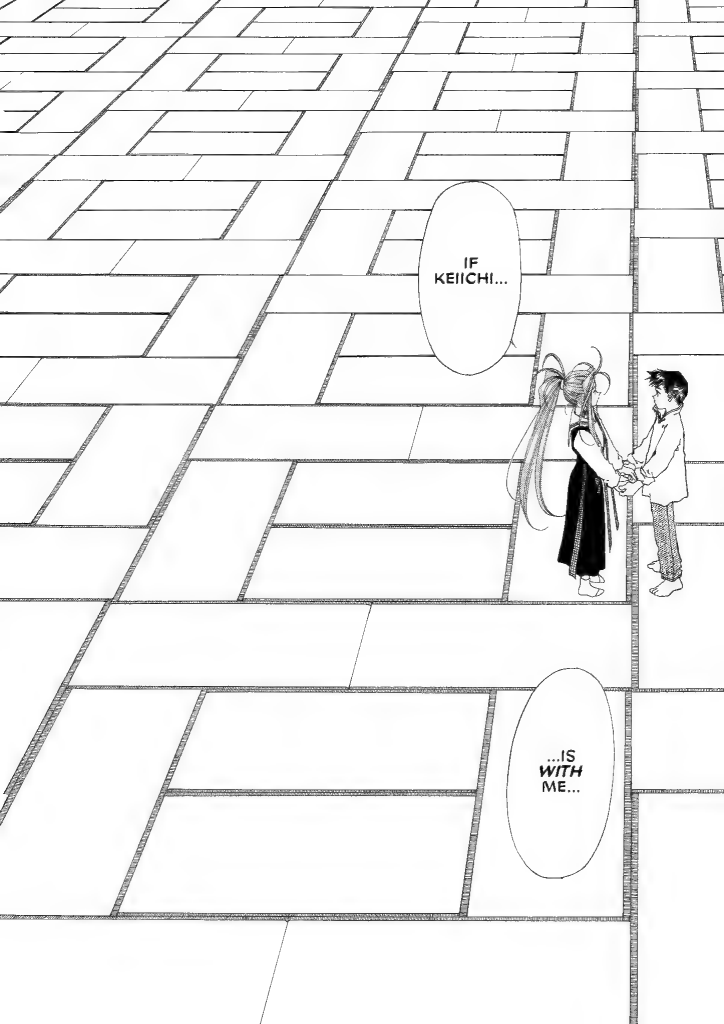

OH! OF COURSE!
THAT'S IT! DOWN ISN'T INFINITE!
OH! WAIT, KEIICHI!
ALL RIGHT! NOW WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE!
EXACT-LY!
SO THE CRAWL-SPACE IS STILL THERE?!
IF WE'RE WRONG...
HM?

キラ
glint


...
OH.
...WE COULD RIP A HOLE IN THE FABRIC OF *SPACE-TIME*...
...AND UNLEASH AN *ALTERNATE UNIVERSE* TO FILL THIS INFINITE SPACE.
EVEN SO...

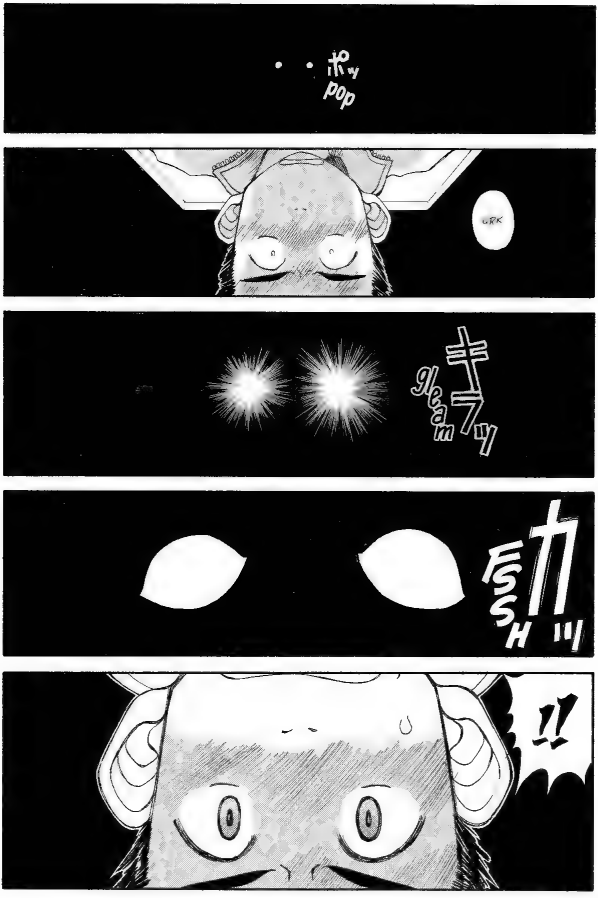

I'D TAKE MY CHANCES WITH A NEW WORLD *ANY* DAY!
...THAT WOULD *STILL* BE BETTER THAN A FEATURELESS INFINITY!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
...
BESIDES, *WHEREVER* WE END UP...


IF BELL-DANDY...

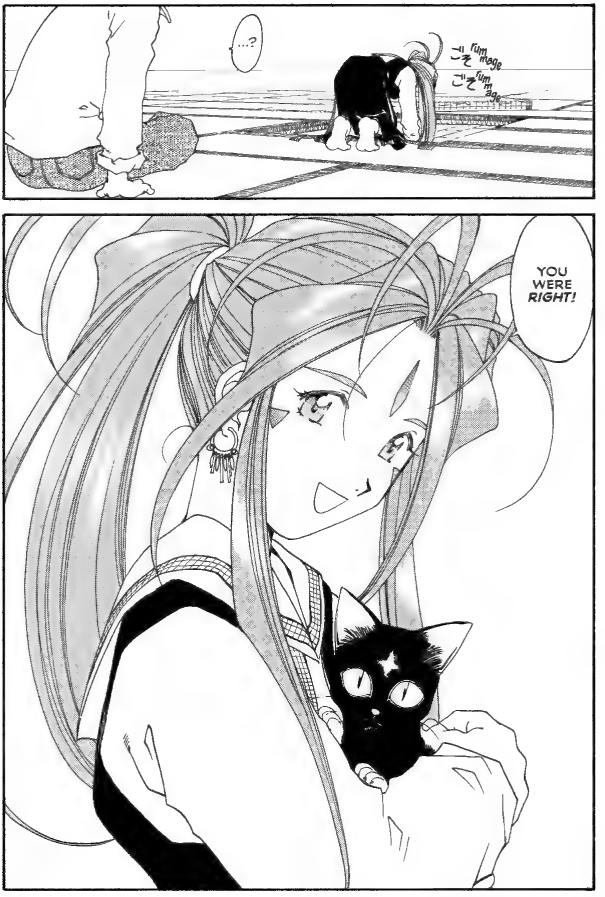

IF KEIICHI...
...IS *WITH* ME...

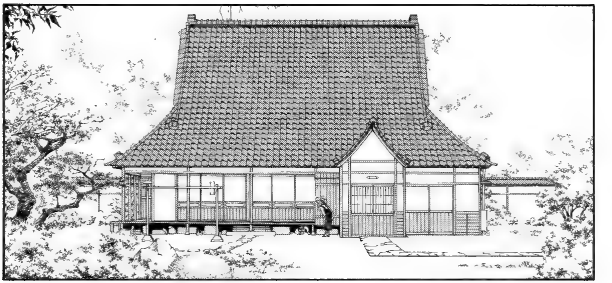
HAHH!
FWDD
...
HFF...

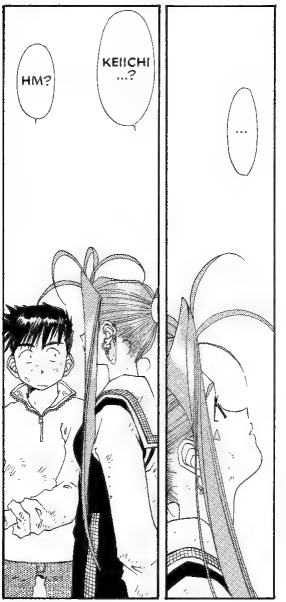
...
OKAY... READY, SET--
GO!
pop

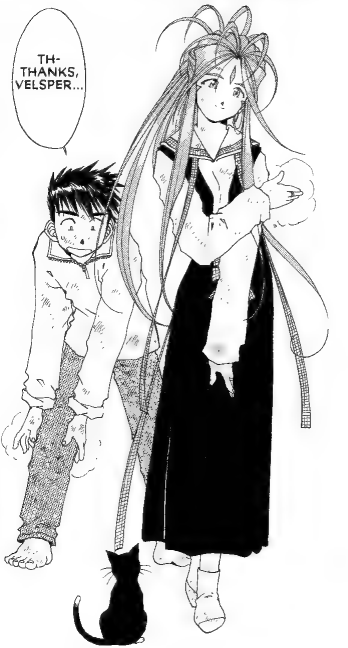

pop
URK
gleam
KASH
!!

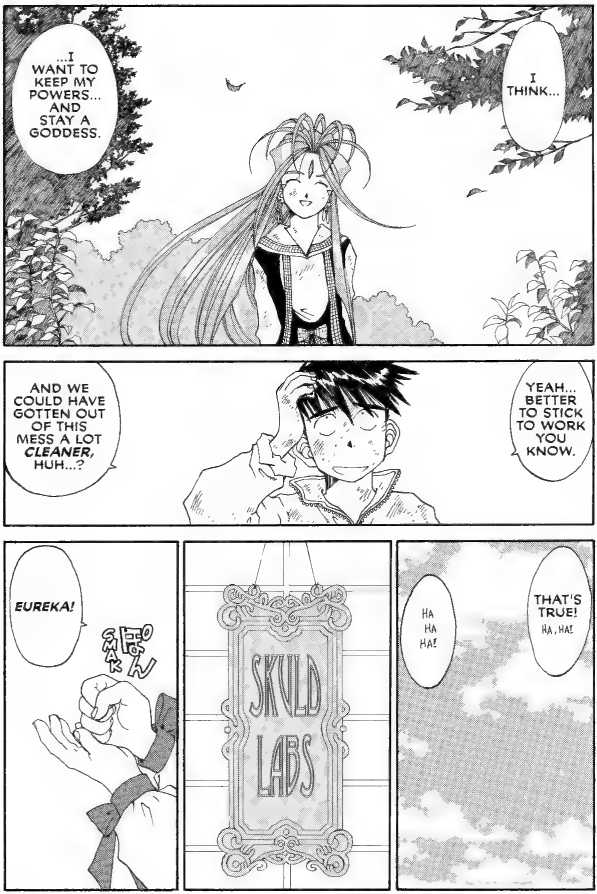
AEE-!!
AA!!
AN...AN ALTERNATE UNIVERSE !!
OH. NO. IT'S NOT!

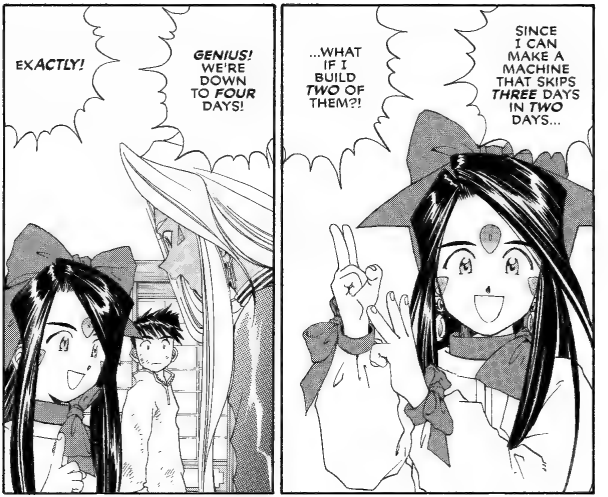

...?
ごそ ごそ
rummage
rummage
YOU WERE RIGHT!

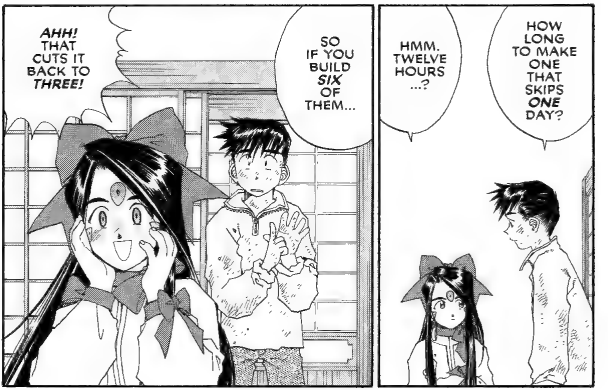



HM?
KEIICHI ...?
...


TH-THANKS, VELSPER...


...I WANT TO KEEP MY POWERS... AND STAY A GODDESS.
I THINK...
AND WE COULD HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF THIS MESS A LOT CLEANER, HUH...?
YEAH... BETTER TO STICK TO WORK YOU KNOW.
EUREKA!
SKULD LABS
HA HA HA!
THAT'S TRUE!
HA, HA!


SINCE I CAN MAKE A MACHINE THAT SKIPS THREE DAYS IN TWO DAYS...
...WHAT IF I BUILD TWO OF THEM?!
GENIUS! WE'RE DOWN TO FOUR DAYS!
EXACTLY!

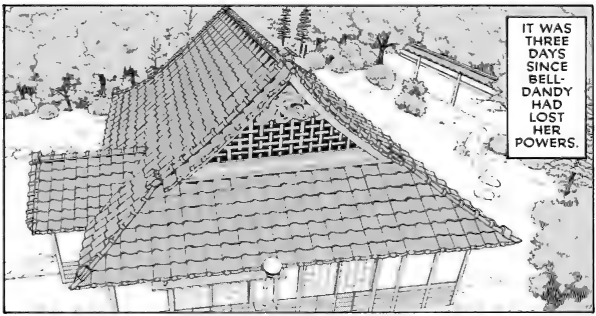

HOW LONG TO MAKE ONE THAT SKIPS ONE DAY?
HMM. TWELVE HOURS ...?
SO IF YOU BUILD SIX OF THEM...
AHH! THAT CUTS IT BACK TO THREE!

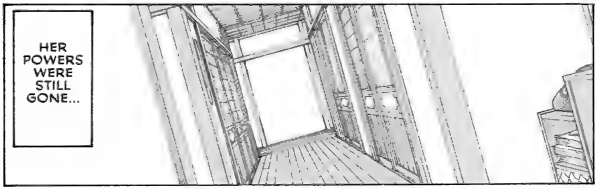
HEY-- WAIT.
AW, NO PROB.
BRILLIANT, KEIICHI! YOU'RE REALLY THINKING TODAY!

IN THE END, THEY SIMPLY DECIDED TO CLOSE THAT ROOM FOR A WEEK.
COME ON! IT'S JUST THREE DAYS!
GET BACK IN THERE!

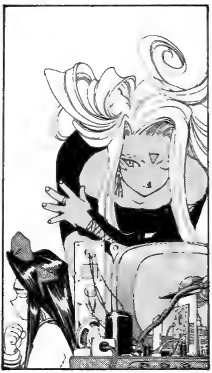
CHAPTER 108

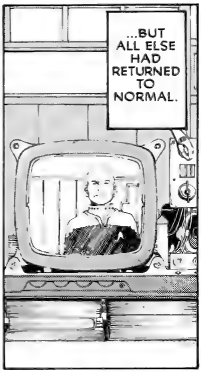
Traveler


IT WAS THREE DAYS SINCE BELL-DANDY HAD LOST HER POWERS.


HER POWERS WERE STILL GONE...

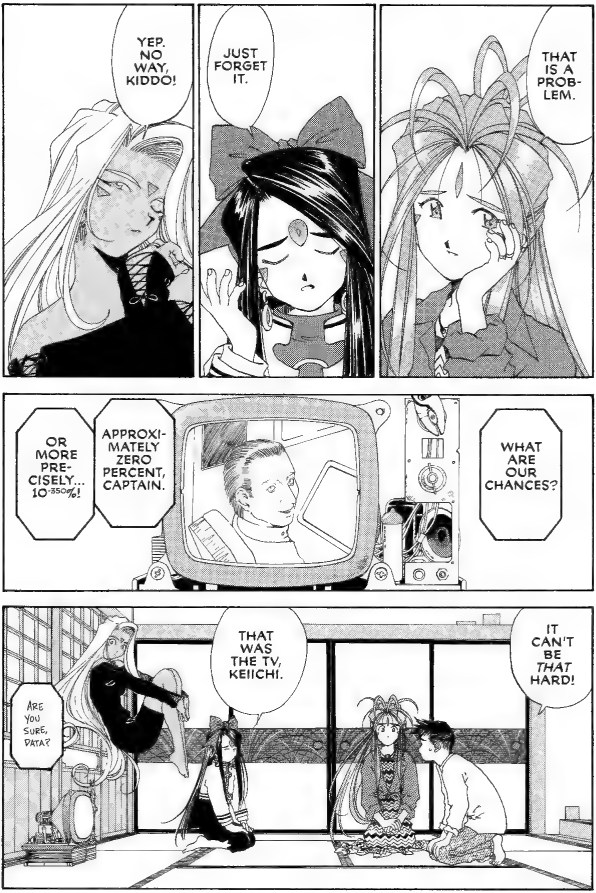
WITH ONE VERY SLIGHT...

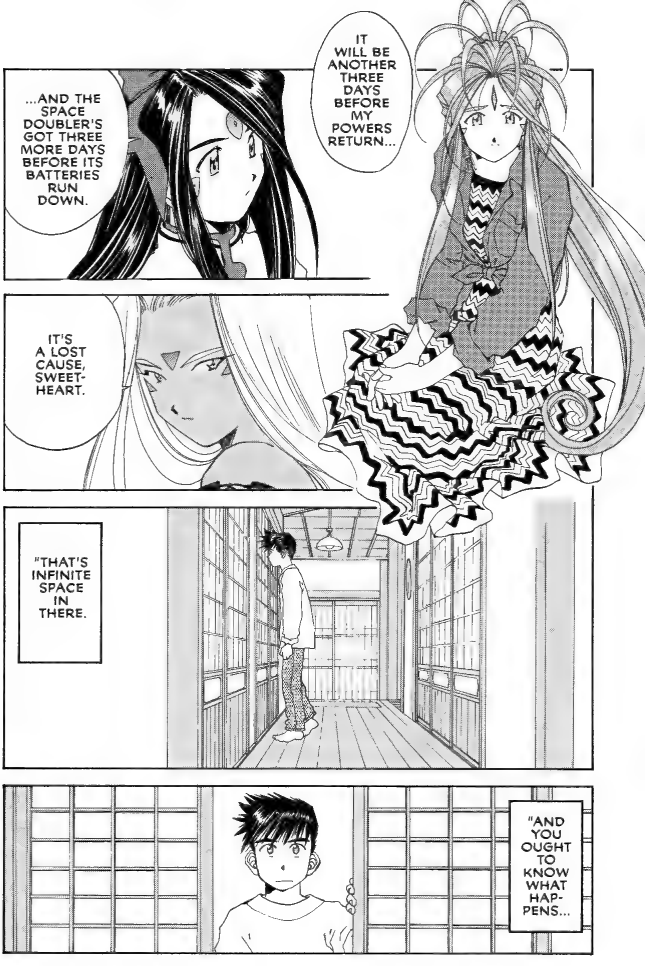


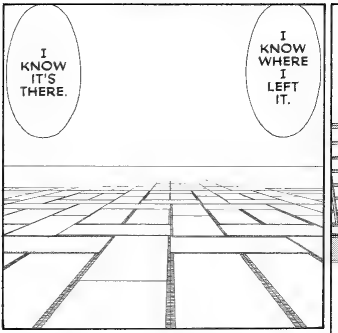

...BUT ALL ELSE HAD RETURNED TO NORMAL.

...EXCEP-
TION.
AH!!
WHAT'S
WRONG?

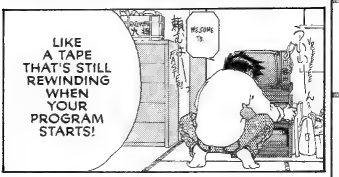
I NEED MY TEXT-BOOK!
AND ...? SO?
TODAY'S MY GERMAN CLASS!
OH, DEAR ...!
AND...? SO?
IT'S IN... THERE!!

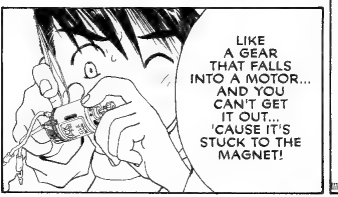

YEP. NO WAY, KIDDO!
JUST FORGET IT.
THAT IS A PROB-LEM.
OR MORE PRE-CISELY... 10-350%!
APPROXI-MATELY ZERO PERCENT, CAPTAIN.
WHAT ARE OUR CHANCES?
ARE YOU SURE, DATA?
THAT WAS THE TV, KEIICHI.
IT CAN'T BE *THAT* HARD!

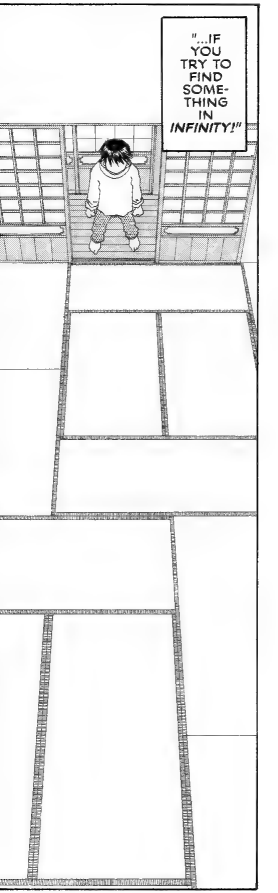

...AND THE SPACE DOUBLER'S GOT THREE MORE DAYS BEFORE ITS BATTERIES RUN DOWN.
IT WILL BE ANOTHER THREE DAYS BEFORE MY POWERS RETURN...
IT'S A LOST CAUSE, SWEET-HEART.
"THAT'S INFINITE SPACE IN THERE.
"AND YOU OUGHT TO KNOW WHAT HAP-PENS...

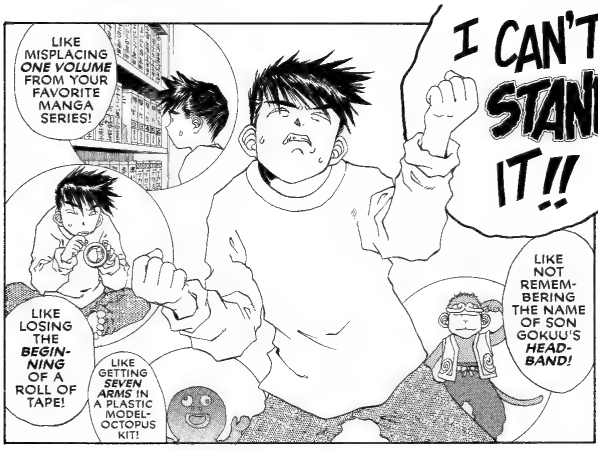

I KNOW IT'S THERE.
I KNOW WHERE I LEFT IT.

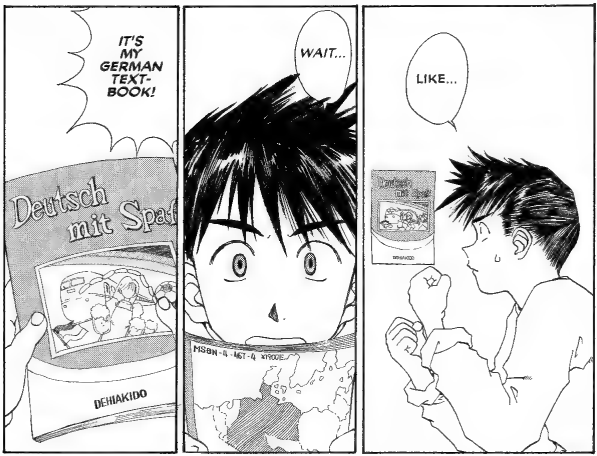
IT FEELS LIKE A CRANE GAME, WHEN YOU'VE GOT IT NAILED... BUT YOU'RE OUT OF COINS!


LIKE A TAPE THAT'S STILL REWINDING WHEN YOUR PROGRAM STARTS!
WELCOME TO

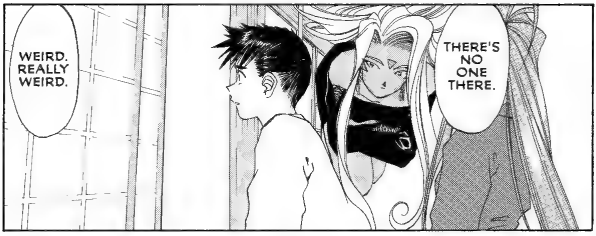

LIKE A GEAR THAT FALLS INTO A MOTOR... AND YOU CAN'T GET IT OUT... 'CAUSE IT'S STUCK TO THE MAGNET!

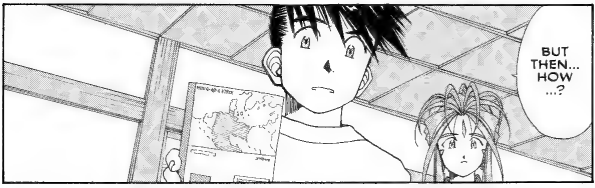

"...IF YOU TRY TO FIND SOME-THING IN INFINITY!"

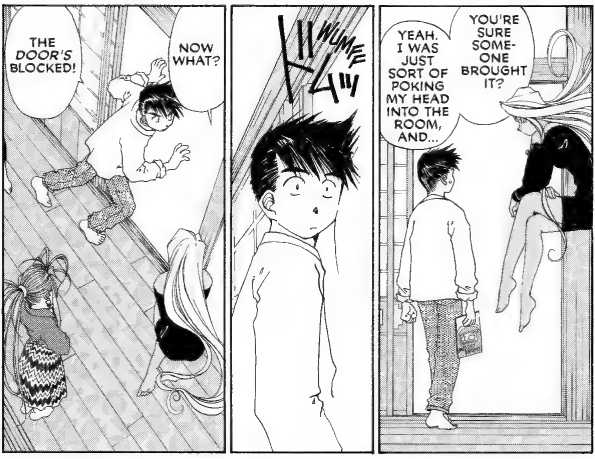

I CAN'T STAND IT!!
LIKE MISPLACING ONE VOLUME FROM YOUR FAVORITE MANGA SERIES!
LIKE LOSING THE BEGINNING OF A ROLL OF TAPE!
LIKE GETTING SEVEN ARMS IN A PLASTIC MODEL-OCTOPUS KIT!
LIKE NOT REMEMBERING THE NAME OF SON GOKUU'S HEADBAND!

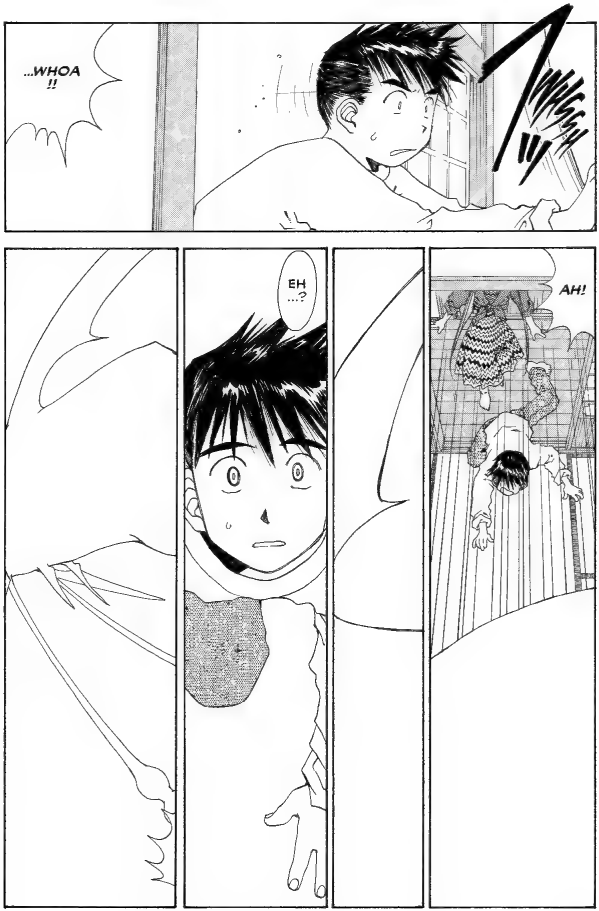

IT'S MY GERMAN TEXTBOOK!
Deutsch mit Spaß
DEHIAKIDO
WAIT...
LIKE...

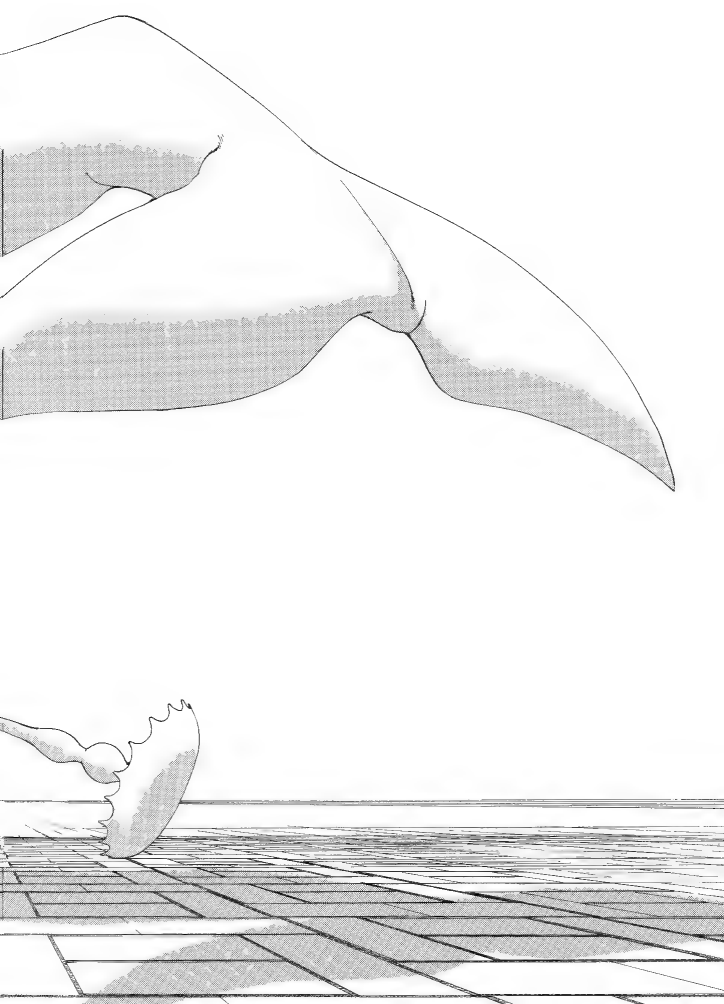
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.
WOW! THANKS, BELL!
FOR WHAT?
WELL, THEN... THANKS, SKULD!
WHAD-DYA MEAN, "NO WAY" ...?
NO WAY IT WAS URD.
BUT IF IT WASN'T ANY OF YOU...
THEN... *WHO?*

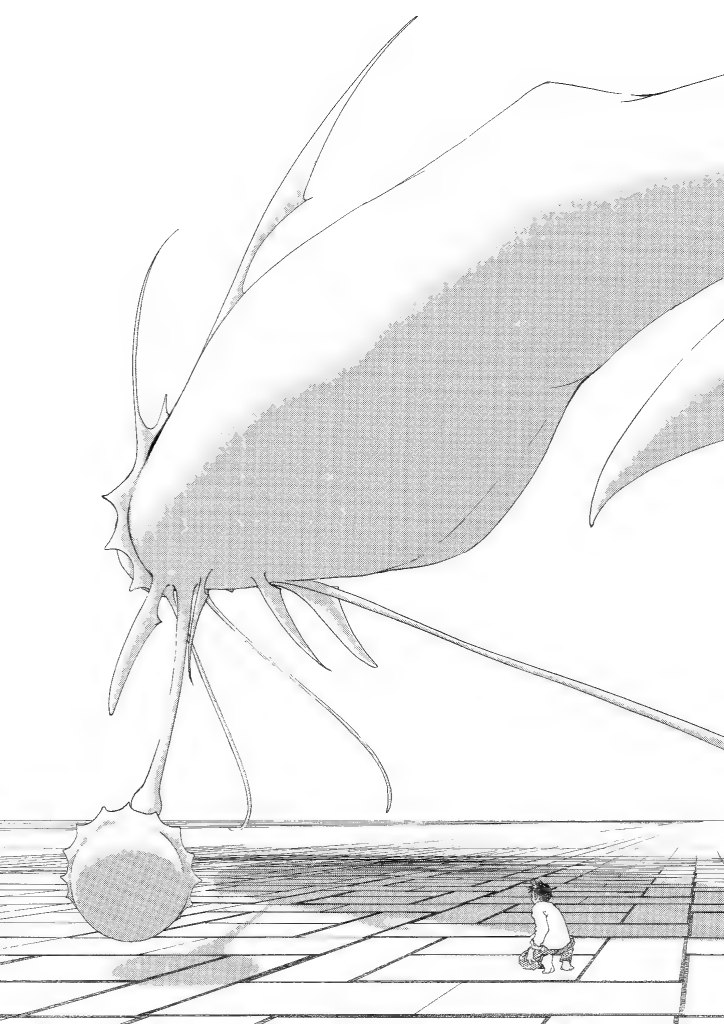

WEIRD. REALLY WEIRD.
THERE'S NO ONE THERE.

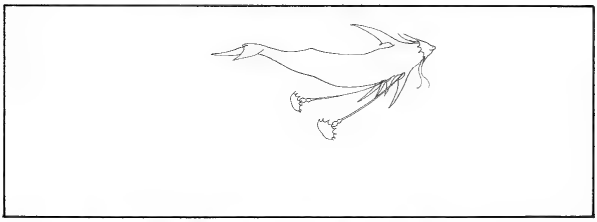

BUT THEN... HOW ...?


THE DOOR'S BLOCKED!
NOW WHAT?
WUMF
YEAH. I WAS JUST SORT OF POKING MY HEAD INTO THE ROOM, AND...
YOU'RE SURE SOME-ONE BROUGHT IT?

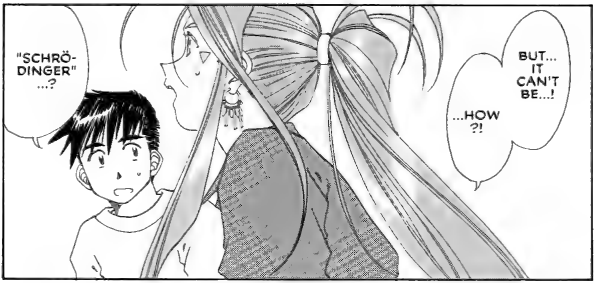

...WHOA !!
EH ...?
AH!

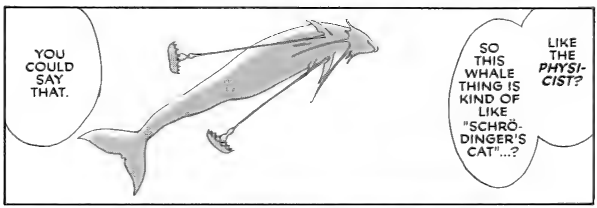


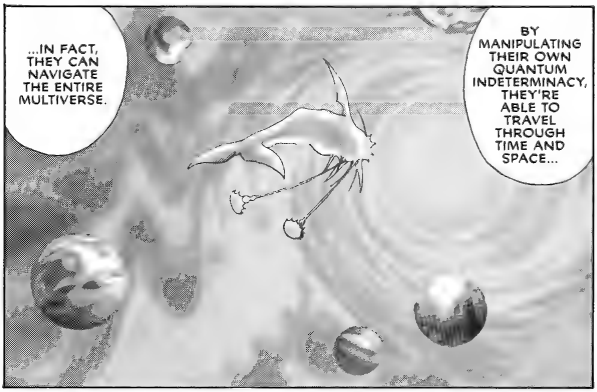


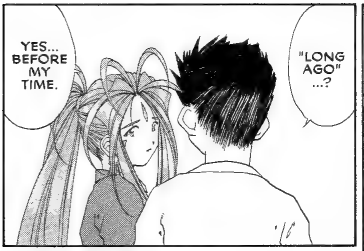


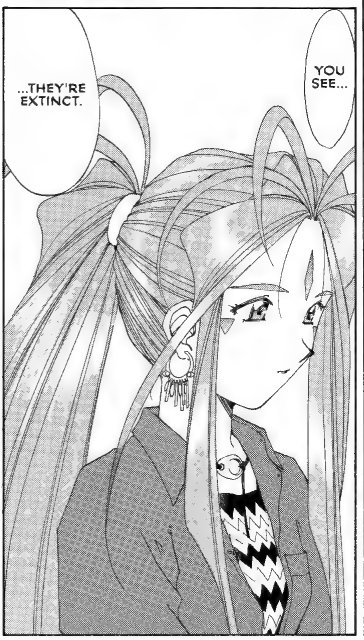
A...A SCHRÖDINGER'S WHALE ...?

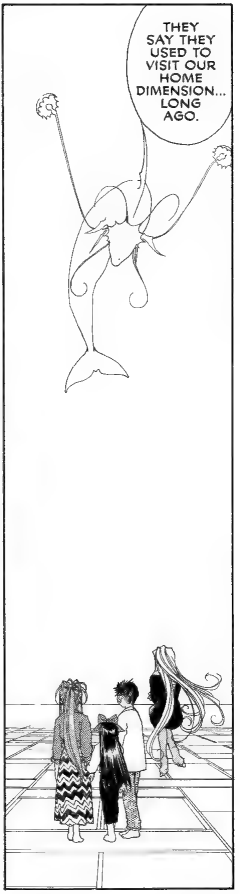

"SCHRÖ-DINGER" ...?
BUT... IT CAN'T BE...!
...HOW ?!

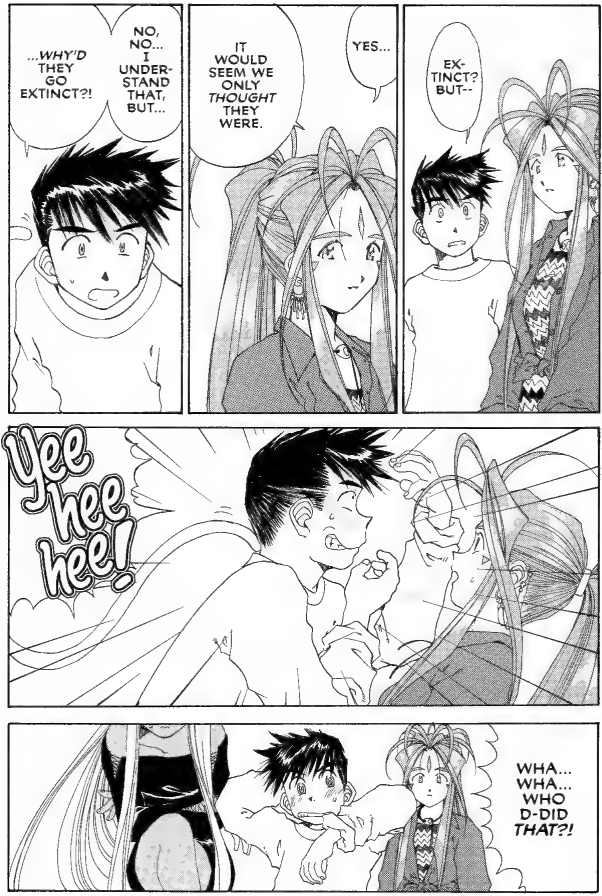

YOU COULD SAY THAT.
SO THIS WHALE THING IS KIND OF LIKE "SCHRÖ-DINGER'S CAT"...?
LIKE THE *PHYSI-CIST?*

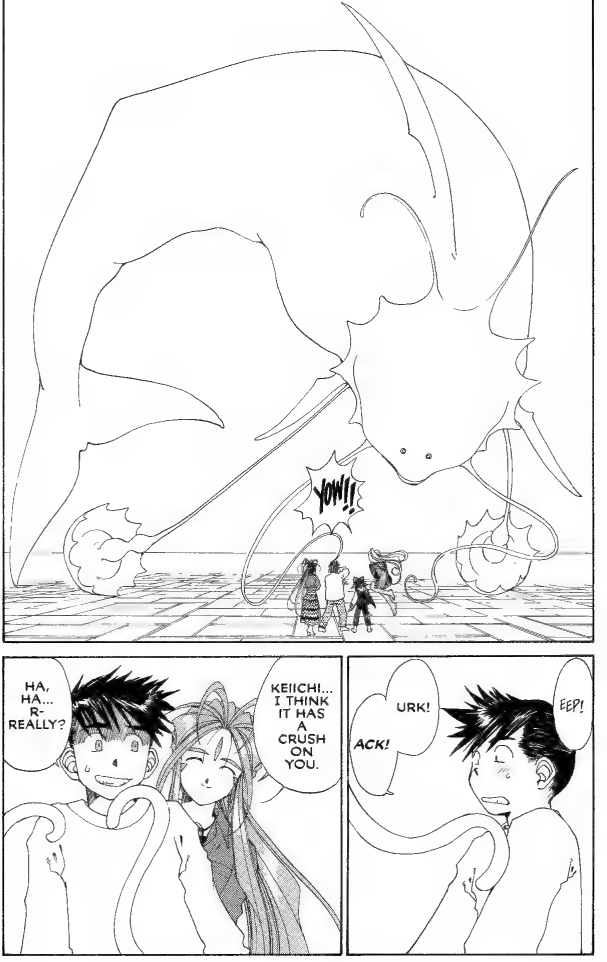

...IN FACT, THEY CAN NAVIGATE THE ENTIRE MULTIVERSE.
BY MANIPULATING THEIR OWN QUANTUM INDETERMINACY, THEY'RE ABLE TO TRAVEL THROUGH TIME AND SPACE...

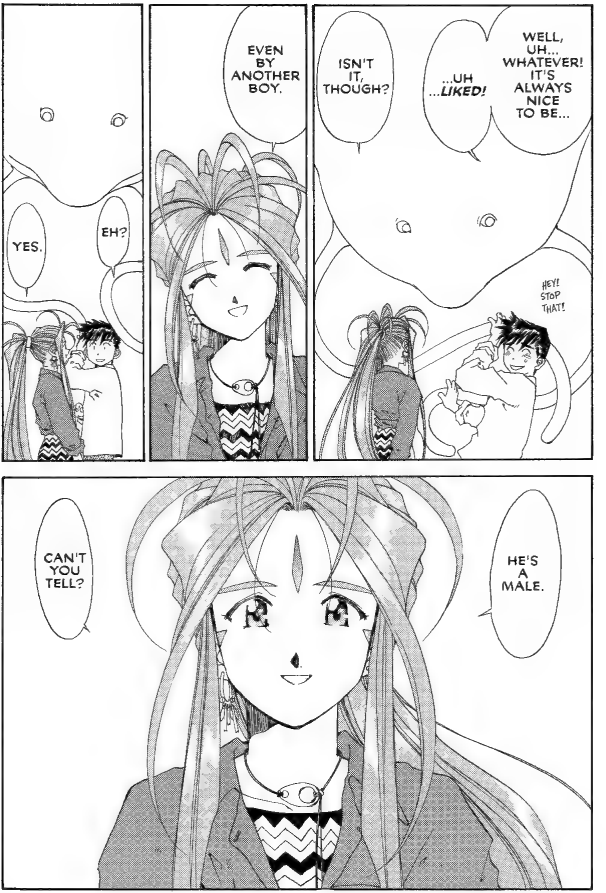

YES... BEFORE MY TIME.
"LONG AGO" ...?

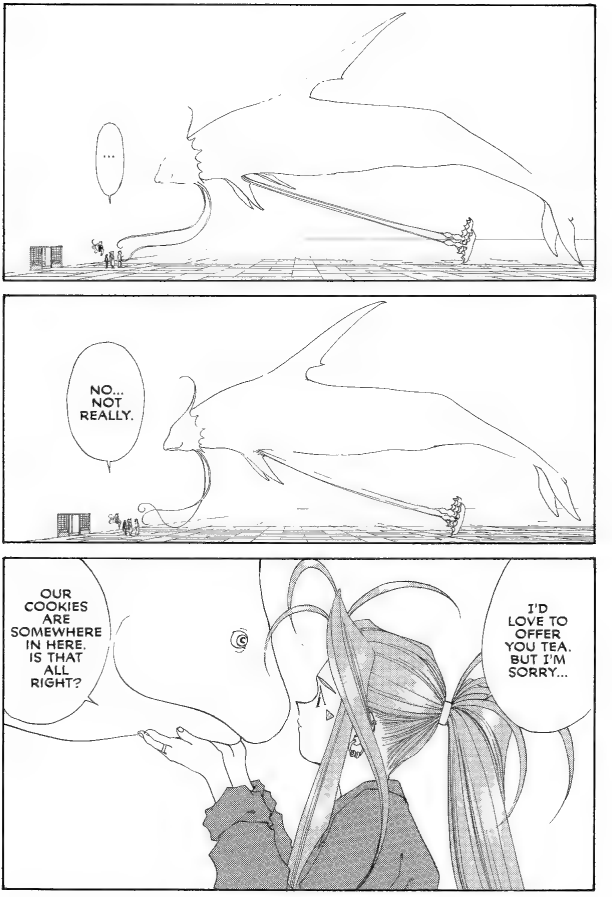

...THEY'RE EXTINCT.
YOU SEE...


THEY SAY THEY USED TO VISIT OUR HOME DIMENSION... LONG AGO.


EX-TINCT? BUT--
YES...
IT WOULD SEEM WE ONLY *THOUGHT* THEY WERE.
NO, NO... I UNDER-STAND THAT, BUT...
...*WHY'D* THEY GO EXTINCT?!
Yee hee hee!
WHA... WHA... WHO D-DID *THAT?!*

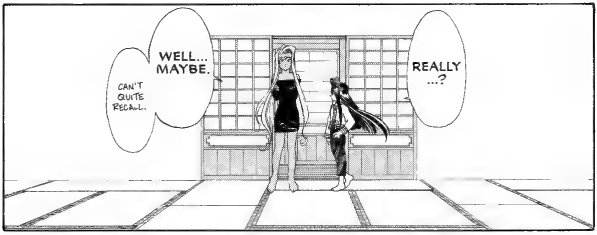

YOW!!
HA, HA... R-REALLY?
KEIICHI... I THINK IT HAS A CRUSH ON YOU.
URK!
ACK!
EEP!


YES.
EH?
EVEN BY ANOTHER BOY.
ISN'T IT, THOUGH?
...UH ...LIKED!
WELL, UH... WHATEVER! IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO BE...
HEY! STOP THAT!
CAN'T YOU TELL?
HE'S A MALE.

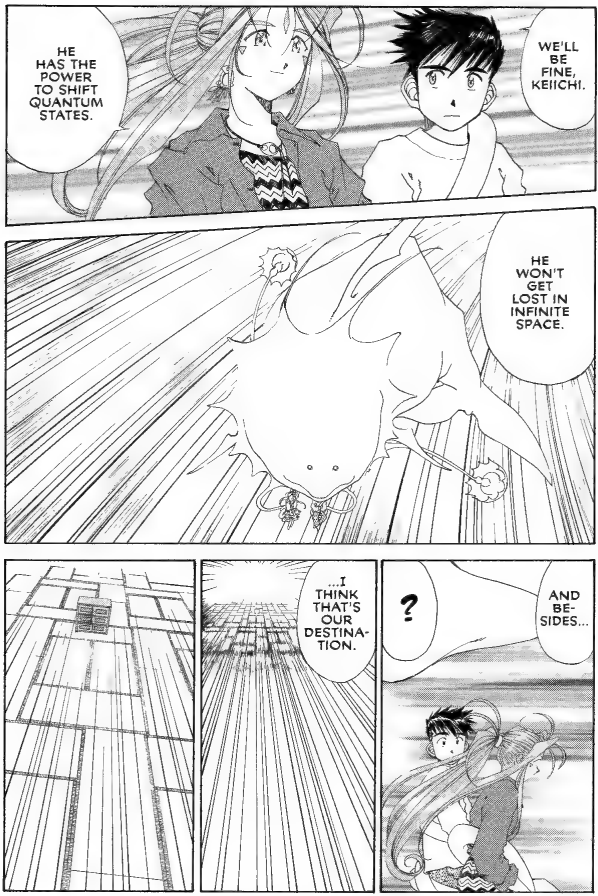

...
NO... NOT REALLY.
OUR COOKIES ARE SOMEWHERE IN HERE. IS THAT ALL RIGHT?
I'D LOVE TO OFFER YOU TEA. BUT I'M SORRY...

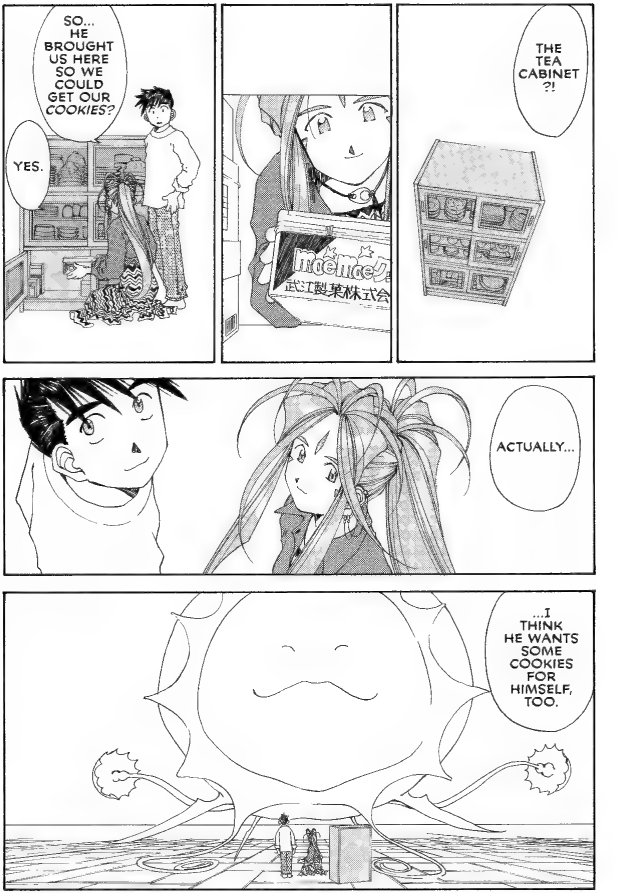
EH...?
OH...!
UHH
FWHIP
UHH
FWHIP
UM...
SIS...?!

...ARE SUPPOSED TO BE HARMLESS.
IT'S OKAY... SCHRÖ-DINGER'S WHALES...
C-CALM DOWN!
URD!! THEY'VE BEEN WHALE-NAPPED!!

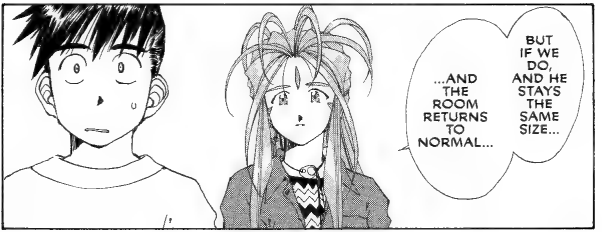

CAN'T QUITE RECALL.
WELL... MAYBE.
REALLY ...?

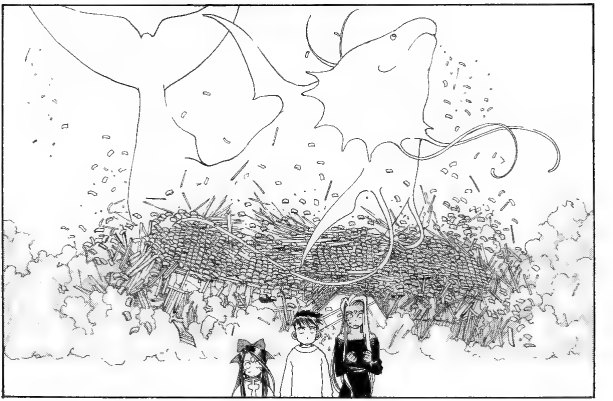
I WONDER WHERE HE'S TAKING US...?

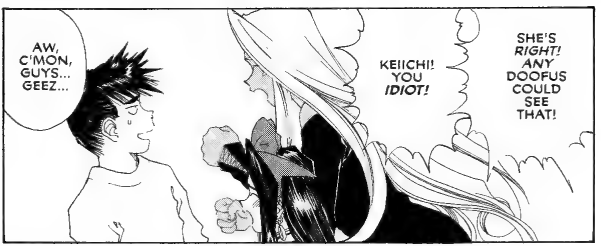

HE HAS THE POWER TO SHIFT QUANTUM STATES.
WE'LL BE FINE, KEIICHI.
HE WON'T GET LOST IN INFINITE SPACE.
...I THINK THAT'S OUR DESTINA-TION.
?
AND BE-SIDES...

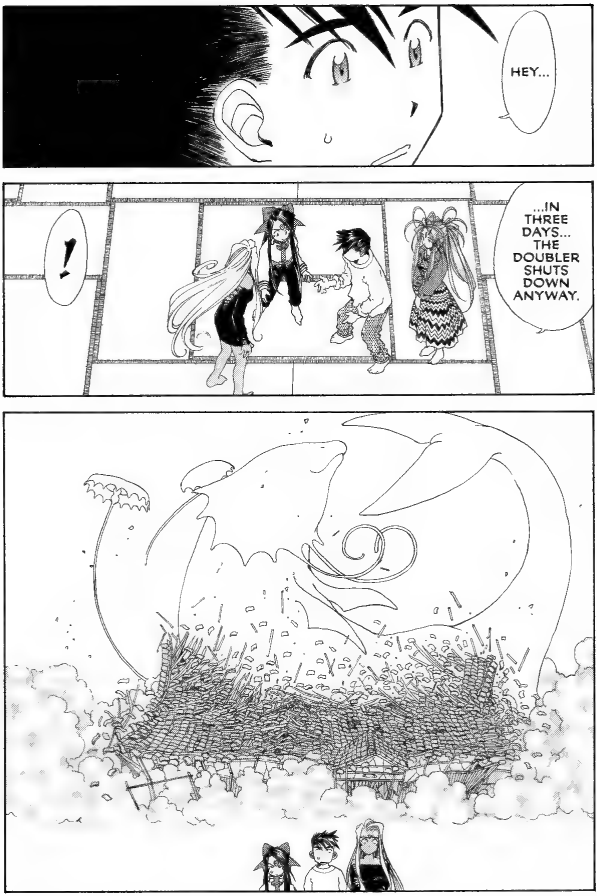

SO... HE BROUGHT US HERE SO WE COULD GET OUR COOKIES?
YES.
THE TEA CABINET ?!
ACTUALLY...
...I THINK HE WANTS SOME COOKIES FOR HIMSELF, TOO.

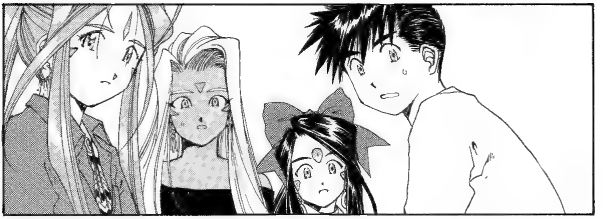
WOW! SCHRÖ-DINGER'S WHALES...
...CAN DO *THAT*?!
HEY! FETCH ME OUR ***REGULAR*** TV!
GET ***ME*** THE SAKE!
MATA
MATA
WAIT... COULDN'T WE JUST HAVE HIM RESET THE DOUBLER ...?
YES!! THAT WOULD SOLVE EVERY-THING!
KEIICHI! YOU ***GENIUS!***
AWW... HA, HA!

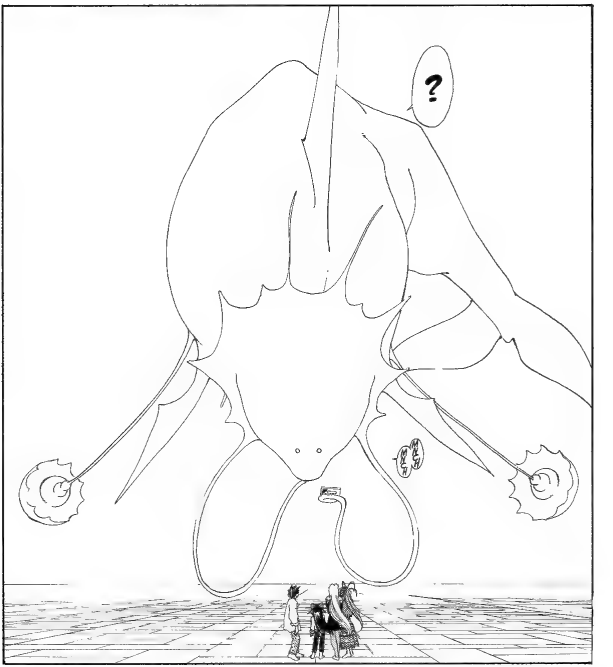

BUT IF WE DO, AND HE STAYS THE SAME SIZE...
...AND THE ROOM RETURNS TO NORMAL...




AW, C'MON, GUYS... GEEZ...
KEIICHI! YOU *IDIOT!*
SHE'S *RIGHT!* ANY DOOFUS COULD SEE THAT!


HEY...
!
...IN THREE DAYS... THE DOUBLER SHUTS DOWN ANYWAY.





THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF OH MY GODDESS!

A Look at Goddess Terminology

SPECIAL BONUS ARTICLE!

Sanwa CDA-701

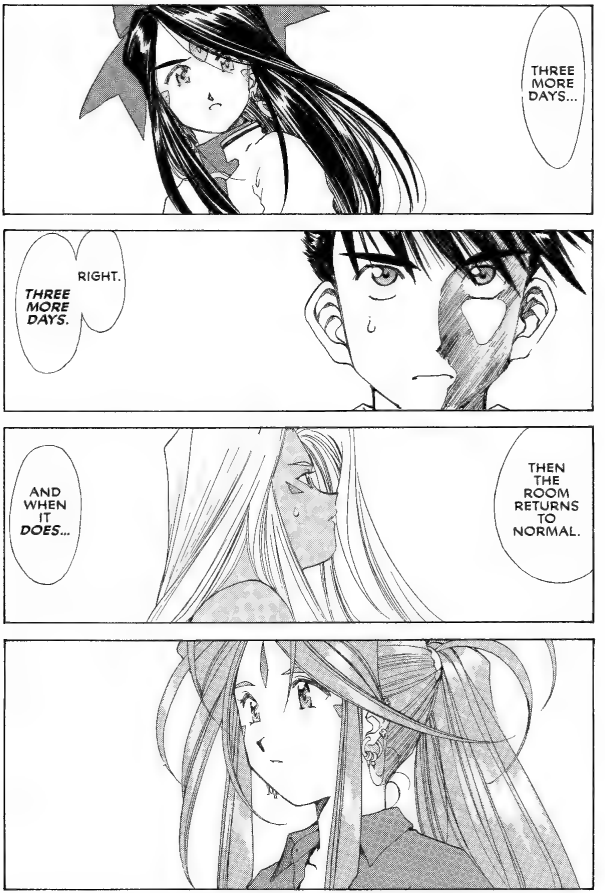
No robotics engineer worth her hair bow would roll without packing a multimeter, a device to analyze how well the circuitry is working in devices that use electric power. As shown in the last volume, Skuld uses her trusty Sanwa CDA-701 to check the electric circuits of the Welcome Robot.

As you can see, its dial (reading it from left to right, just like this wasn't a manga) can be set to check on the **voltage** (roughly, the potential "weight" of the work the electricity could be doing; for example, a standard US electrical outlet allows up to 120 volts), the **resistance** (this is the position Skuld currently has it set to; like it sounds, resistance is a measure of the impediments that the voltage is encountering as it flows; you determine the actual current getting through by dividing the voltage by the resistance), the **continuity** (whether the circuit path is broken or not), a particular **diode** (diodes are usually designed to allow current to flow in only one particular direction), and finally, three common levels of **amperage** (200 milliamperes, 2 amperes, and 12 amperes; this is the "flow speed" of the current).

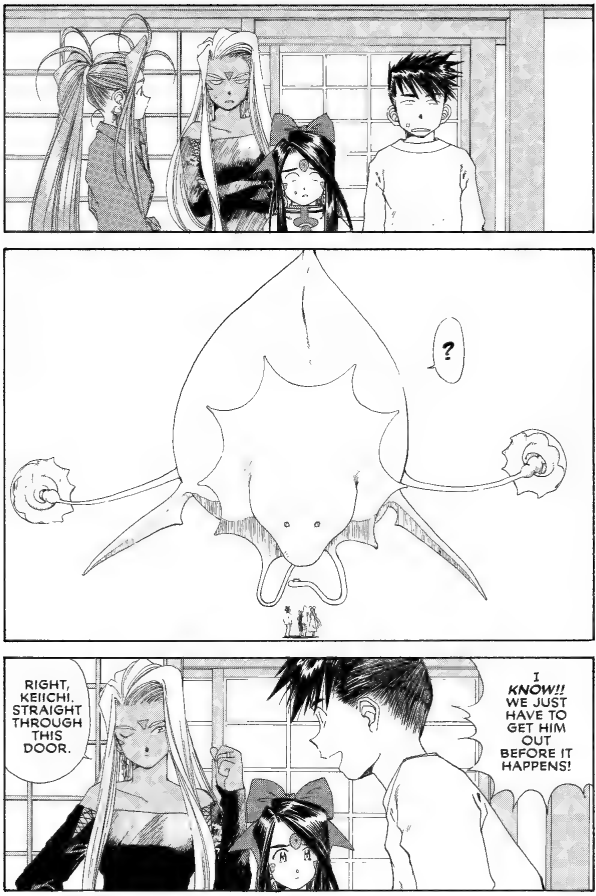
If you think of the force exerted by a *physical* object as being a combination of its weight and how fast it's going, then by analogy you can get the same electrical force (or power) with a higher starting "weight" (voltage) even if you have a lower "speed" (amperage). One practical implication of this for the engineer is that, in doing the wiring on any electric device, the lower the amperage, the lighter the cabling you need, and this is the general approach used in much of Europe, where the household voltage standard is 230 V, as opposed to the North American standard of 120 V. An electric-powered device might, of course, use different amperages in different places, depending on the application. Skuld appears to have two amperage probe lines plugged in at the bottom of the multimeter, one testing the Welcome Robot at 200 mA, the other at 12 A. The first might be for the robot's sensors or instruments; the other is likely for her motive power, since those cables would have to carry much more energy.

CHAPTER 109

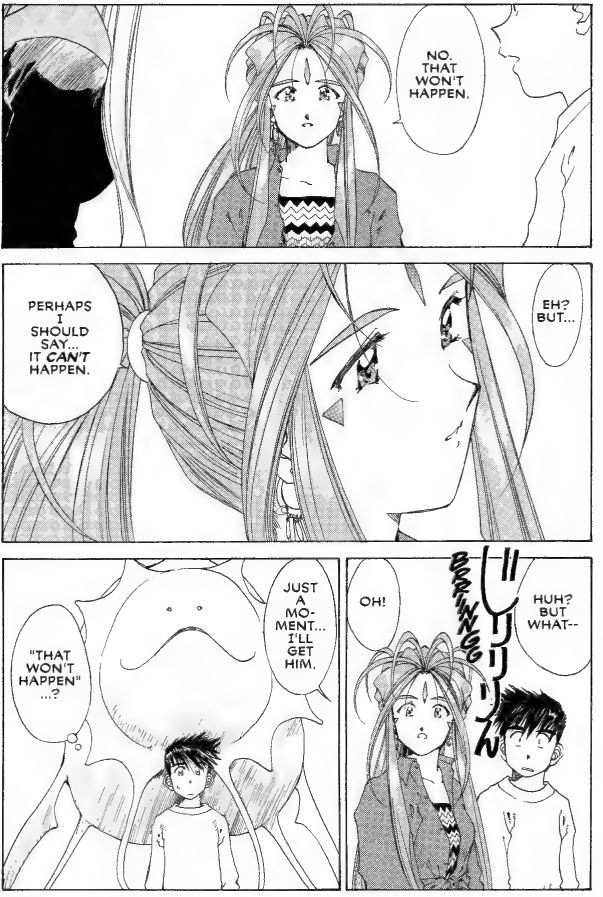
My Song Is Your Song


THREE MORE DAYS...
RIGHT.
THREE MORE DAYS.
THEN THE ROOM RETURNS TO NORMAL.
AND WHEN IT DOES...

SKRASSH

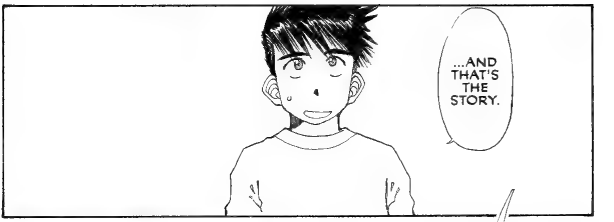

?
RIGHT, KEIICHI. STRAIGHT THROUGH THIS DOOR.
I KNOW!! WE JUST HAVE TO GET HIM OUT BEFORE IT HAPPENS!

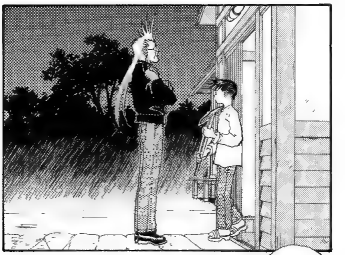
WHROOM
MY MACHINES WON'T WORK ON LIFE FORMS IN A STATE OF QUANTUM SUPER-POSITION.
MAYBE SKULD COULD BUILD SOME-THING TO *SHRINK* HIM...?
SKRASH
SKRASH
OOM
...THE *INSTANT* IT'S BACK TO NORMAL!
RE-START THE SPACE DOUBLER...
AND *DURING* THAT INSTANT ...?


NO. THAT WON'T HAPPEN.
EH? BUT...
PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY... IT CAN'T HAPPEN.
HUH? BUT WHAT--
RRRINNGG
リリリーン
OH!
JUST A MO-MENT... I'LL GET HIM.
"THAT WON'T HAPPEN" ...?

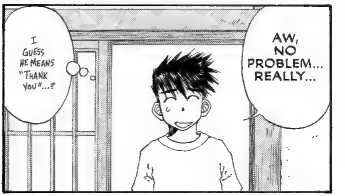
HUH?
IT'S MR. OTAKI FOR YOU.
KEIICHI ...?!
AND YOU! MUNCHING ON COOKIES WHILE WE'RE BUSTING OUR BRAINS!
WELL, YEAH.
HEY, MORI-SATO! OUR STUFF OKAY?
HELLO ...?
SO...
Y-YOU'RE IMAG-INING THINGS.
DON'T GET THAT LOOK ON YOUR FACE.
SCARY GUY
GOT A FAVOR TO ASK, LI'L BRO.

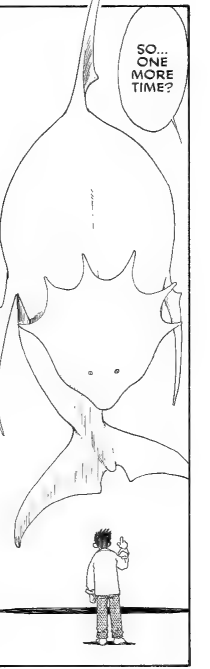
WHY NOT ...?
WHY NOT?
CAN'T BE DONE.
CAN'T YOU BORROW A STUPID T-SQUARE?!
GIMME A BREAK!
WHAT ?!
I ALWAYS USE IT FOR GRADED TECHNICAL DRAWINGS!
BECAUSE IT'S MY SPECIAL T-SQUARE FROM MISS CHIHIRO!
THEN WHY DID YOU PACK IT AWAY, EINSTEIN?
OKAY, OKAY... SHEESH. GOTCHA.
IF I DON'T USE IT, I'LL FAIL! I JUST KNOW IT!!

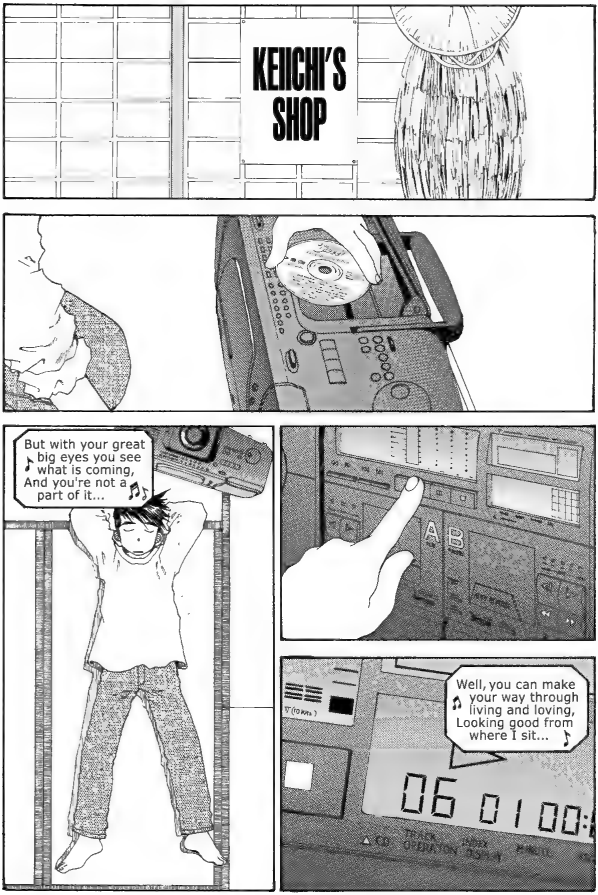

...AND THAT'S THE STORY.



I GENUFLECT BEFORE YE!

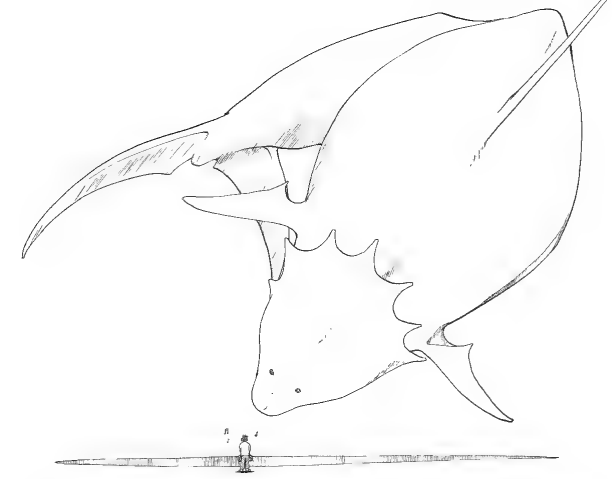

I GUESS HE MEANS "THANK YOU"...?
AW, NO PROBLEM... REALLY...


SO... ONE MORE TIME?

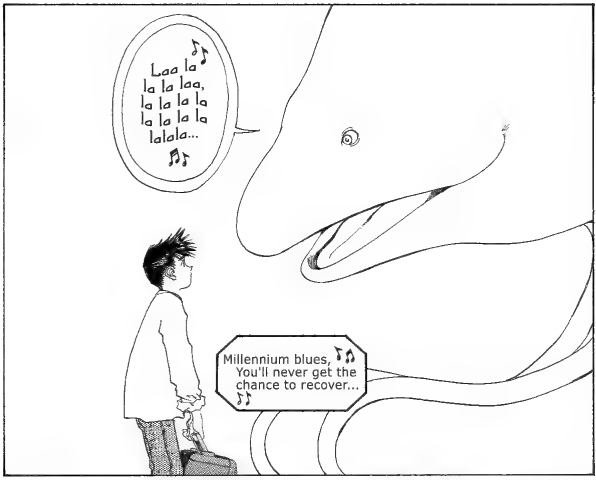

KEIICHI'S SHOP
But with your great big eyes you see what is coming, And you're not a part of it...
A B
Well, you can make your way through living and loving, Looking good from where I sit...
06 01 00:

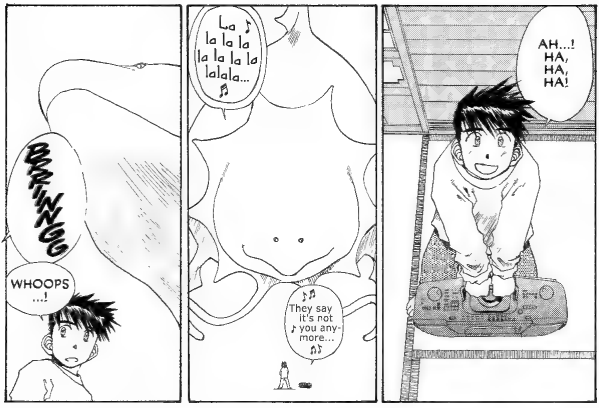
"THAT WON'T HAPPEN."
WHY NOT?
AND MORE TO THE POINT...
...WHY'D SHE HAVE THAT SAD LOOK IN HER EYES?
AND WHY ARE SCHRÖ-DINGER'S WHALES...
...ALMOST EXTINCT?

And how far forward will I have to travel, To stay ahead of you...
?
WAUGH!
?!
THE MUSIC?
Millennium blues, Lived half in one and half in the other...



THIS ONE'S CALLED "MILLENNIUM BLUES"... IT'S BY MATTHEW SWEET.
I'm in over my head, And I'm not looking back...
YOU LIKE IT?
I'm finally up to speed...
Millennium blues, Lived half in one and half in the other...
HA, HA... I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF YOU CAN UNDER-STAND ME.

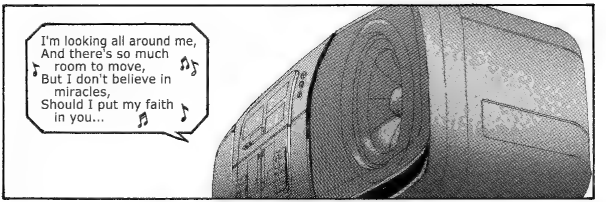

Laa la
la la laa,
la la la la
la la la la
lalala...
Millennium blues,
You'll never get the
chance to recover...


GRRINGG
WHOOPS
...!
La
la la la
la la la la
lalala...
They say
it's not
you any-
more...
AH...!
HA,
HA,
HA!

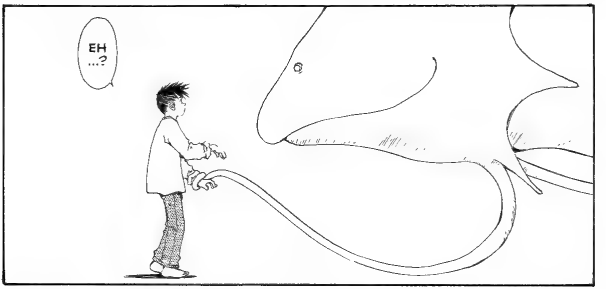
HELLO, KEIICHI HERE.
YO!
TAMIYA CALLIN'.
AND WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO FIND ...?
YOU IS A GENIUS, KID.
YES, WELL

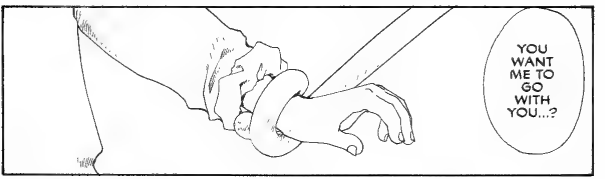
ACTUALLY... I KINDA PACKED MISS CHIHIRO'S...
...PRECIOUS SCIENTIFIC CALCULA-TOR!

AND YOU CAN'T DO YOUR HOMEWORK WITHOUT IT OR YOU'LL FAIL...?
WHOA... YOU IS A GENIUS!
YES, WELL ..


I'm looking all around me,
And there's so much room to move,
But I don't believe in miracles,
Should I put my faith in you...

...CAN YOU FIND SOME-THING? JUST ONE MORE TIME?
I'M SORRY TO ASK, BUT...

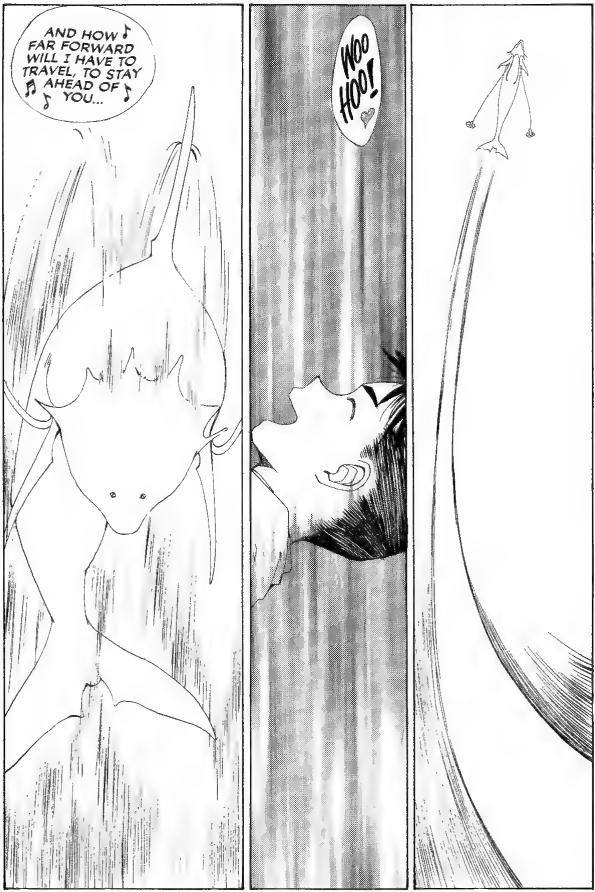

EH ...?


YOU WANT ME TO GO WITH YOU...?

WHY DO THESE THINGS ALWAYS HAPPEN TO ME...?
...
Laa ♪ la ♪ la la laa... ♫
?

♪ LIVED HALF IN ONE AND HALF IN THE OTHER... ♪
Mill ennium bluuues
La la la la la la la la la la la la
WHPP

WHOA ?!
WHPP
PART OF ME WANTS TO STAY IN THE MIDDLE, ♪ PART OF ME WANTS TO LOSE CONTROL... ♪
WHPP
WHPP


AND HOW FAR FORWARD WILL I HAVE TO TRAVEL TO STAY AHEAD OF YOU...
WOO HOO!

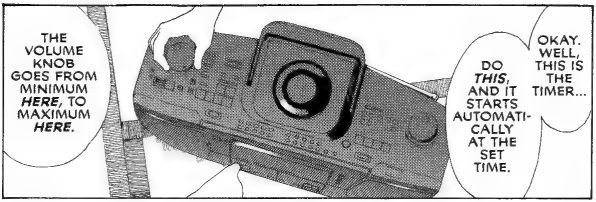
♫ Laa la la la laa... ♫

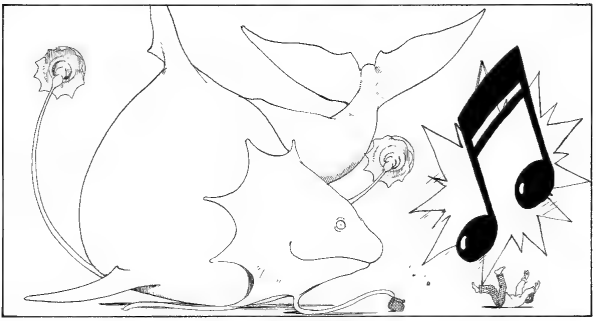
I'M FINALLY UP TO SPEED, I'M IN OVER MY HEAD, AND I'M NOT LOOKING BACK... ♫ ♫

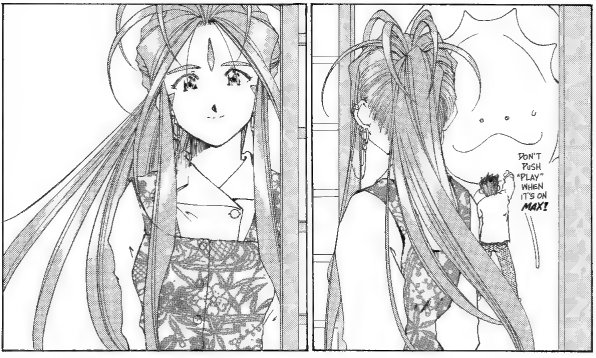
When you said to me, You are not so old... ♫ ♫

♫ DID I KNOW IT ♪ THEN? 'CAUSE I HAD JUST BEEN ♪ TOLD...
♪ Lala, la la, ♫ ♪ la la... ♫
♪ Waiii...ting... ♪ ♫
I DIDN'T THINK I'D FIND YOU, PERFECT IN SO MANY WAYS, BUT I'VE BEEN ♪ WAITING...

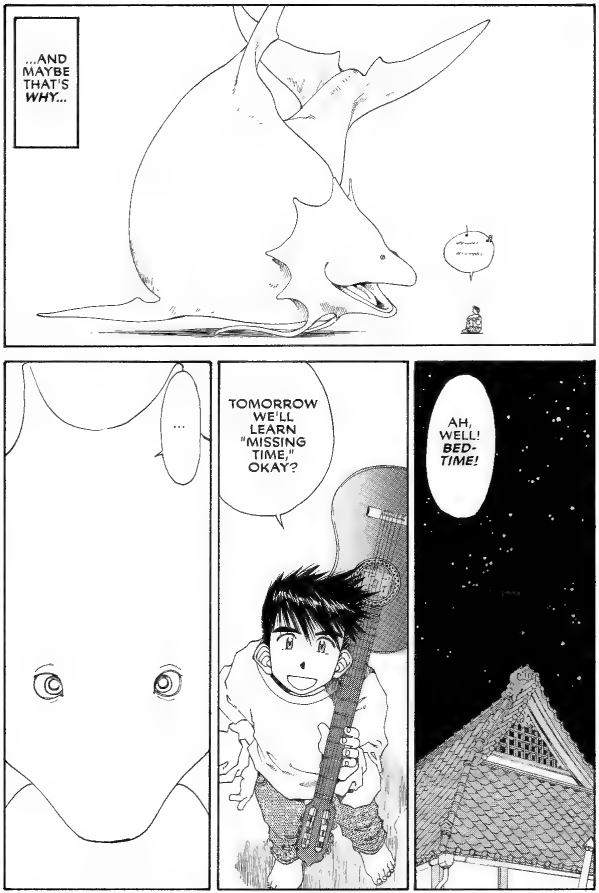
♪
HUH ...?
YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW IT WORKS ...?

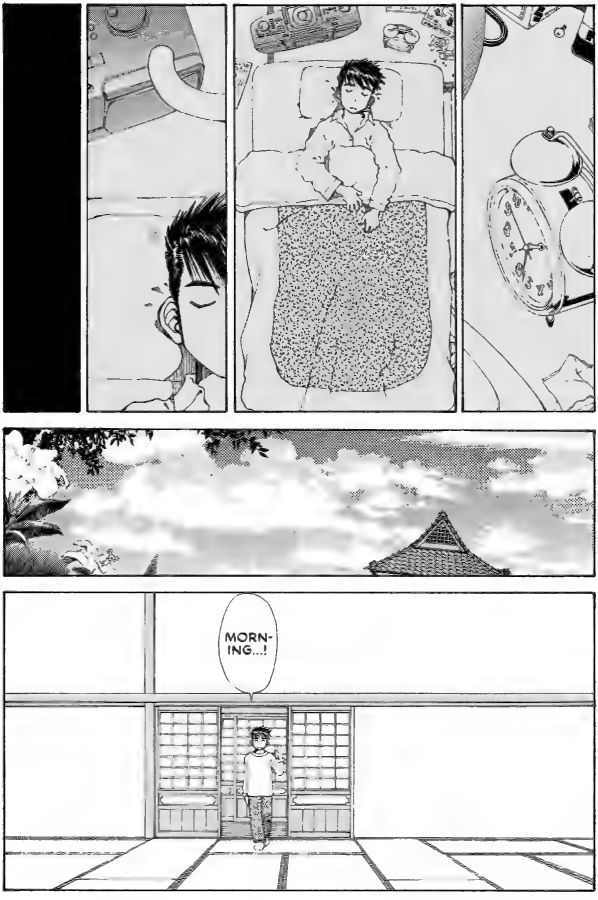

THE VOLUME KNOB GOES FROM MINIMUM *HERE*, TO MAXIMUM *HERE*.
DO *THIS*, AND IT STARTS AUTOMATICALLY AT THE SET TIME.
OKAY. WELL, THIS IS THE TIMER...

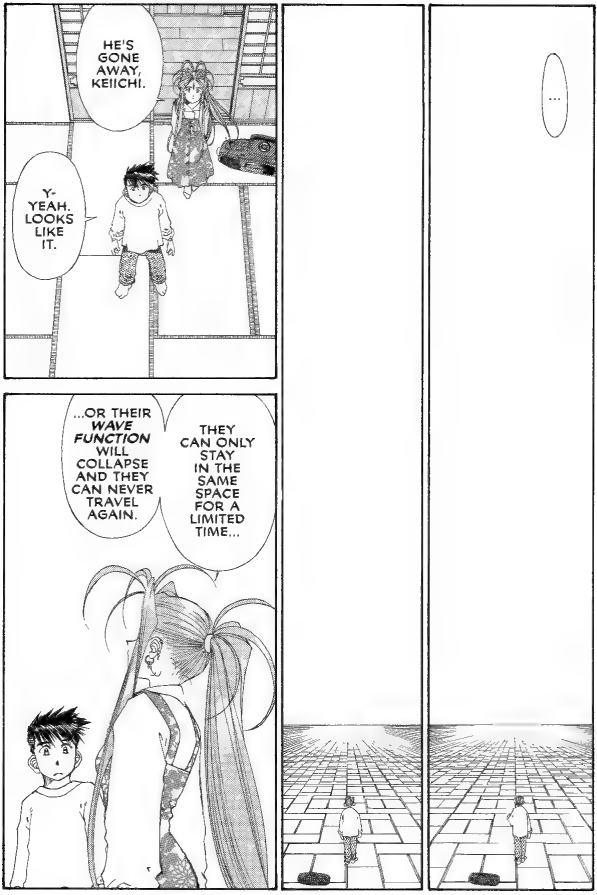


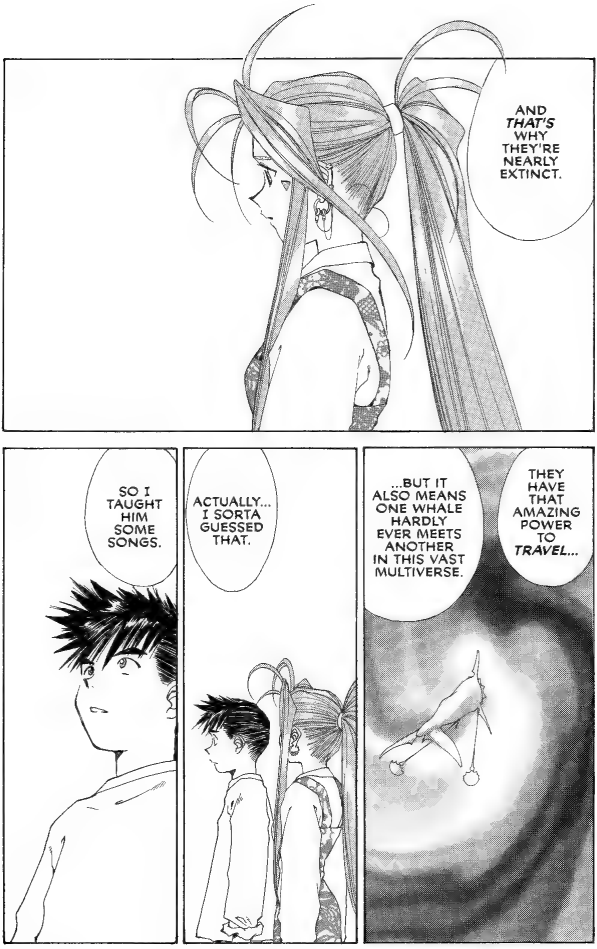

DON'T PUSH "PLAY" WHEN IT'S ON *MUTE*

IGNORANCE ISN'T *ALWAYS* BLISS, YOU KNOW.
IS THIS REALLY A GOOD IDEA ...?
REMEMBER WHAT I FOUND OUT?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TELL HIM
NO... IT'S OKAY.
I THINK... SOMEHOW... HE ALREADY KNOWS..


...AND MAYBE THAT'S *WHY*...
...
TOMORROW WE'LL LEARN "MISSING TIME," OKAY?
AH, WELL! *BED-TIME!*


MORN-
ING...!


HE'S GONE AWAY, KEIICHI.
Y-YEAH. LOOKS LIKE IT.
...
THEY CAN ONLY STAY IN THE SAME SPACE FOR A LIMITED TIME...
...OR THEIR *WAVE FUNCTION* WILL COLLAPSE AND THEY CAN NEVER TRAVEL AGAIN.


AND *THAT'S* WHY THEY'RE NEARLY EXTINCT.
THEY HAVE THAT AMAZING POWER TO *TRAVEL*...
...BUT IT ALSO MEANS ONE WHALE HARDLY EVER MEETS ANOTHER IN THIS VAST MULTIVERSE.
ACTUALLY... I SORTA GUESSED THAT.
SO I TAUGHT HIM SOME SONGS.

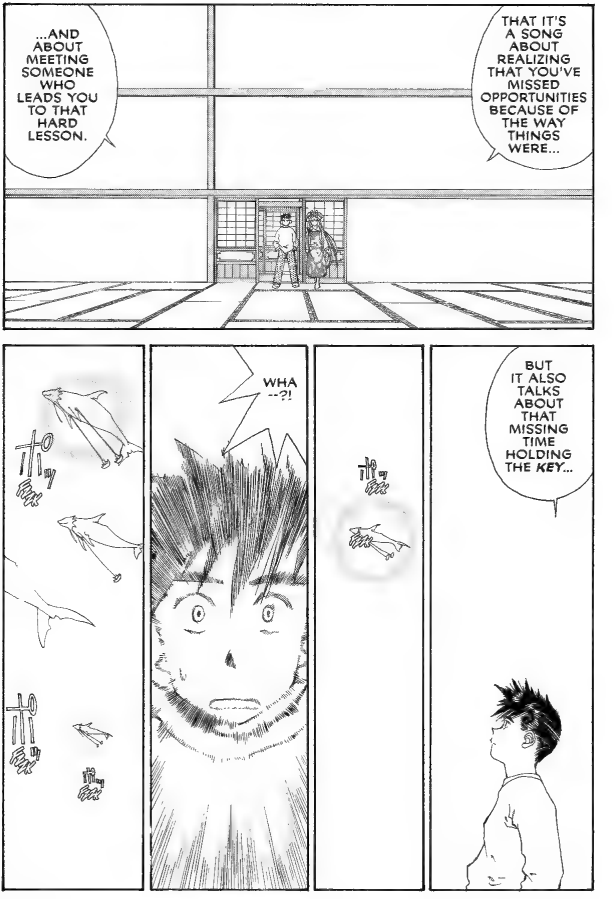
...I WANTED TO TEACH HIM...
BUT THERE WAS ONE MORE SONG...
8:00
THAT WAY HE'LL HAVE SOMETHING HE CAN ALWAYS TAKE WITH HIM, NO MATTER WHERE HE GOES.
klik
VRRRR
AUTO REVERSE
Do you realize what they have done, Showed me I am not the only one...
Planted something in my mind, Now I've begun to find...

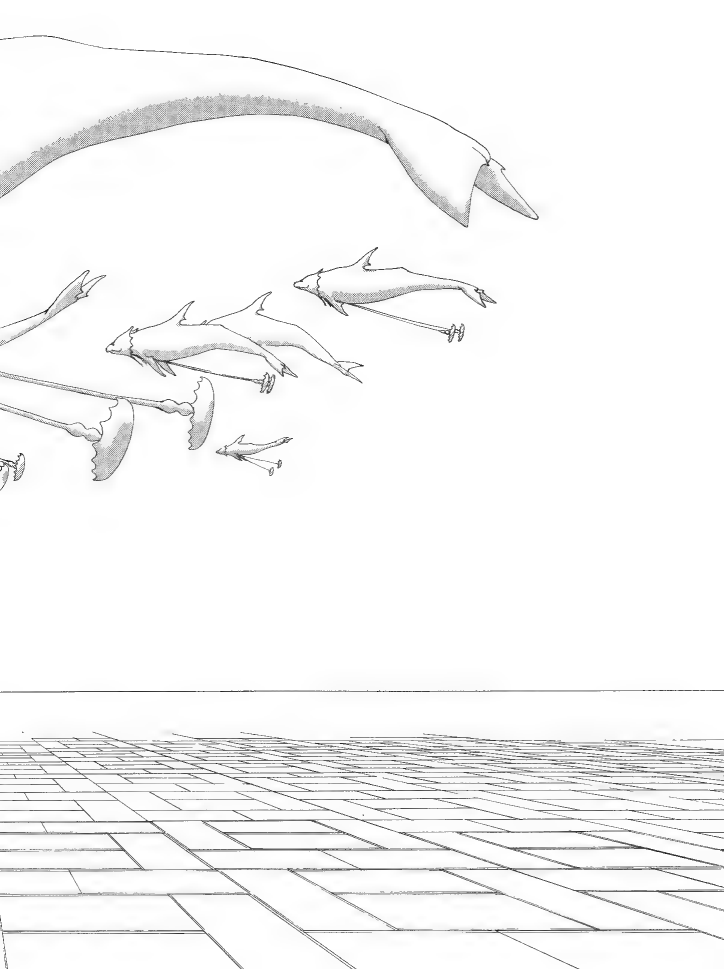
"MISSING TIME" ...?!
Missing time, I want back, I'm afraid that I can feel...

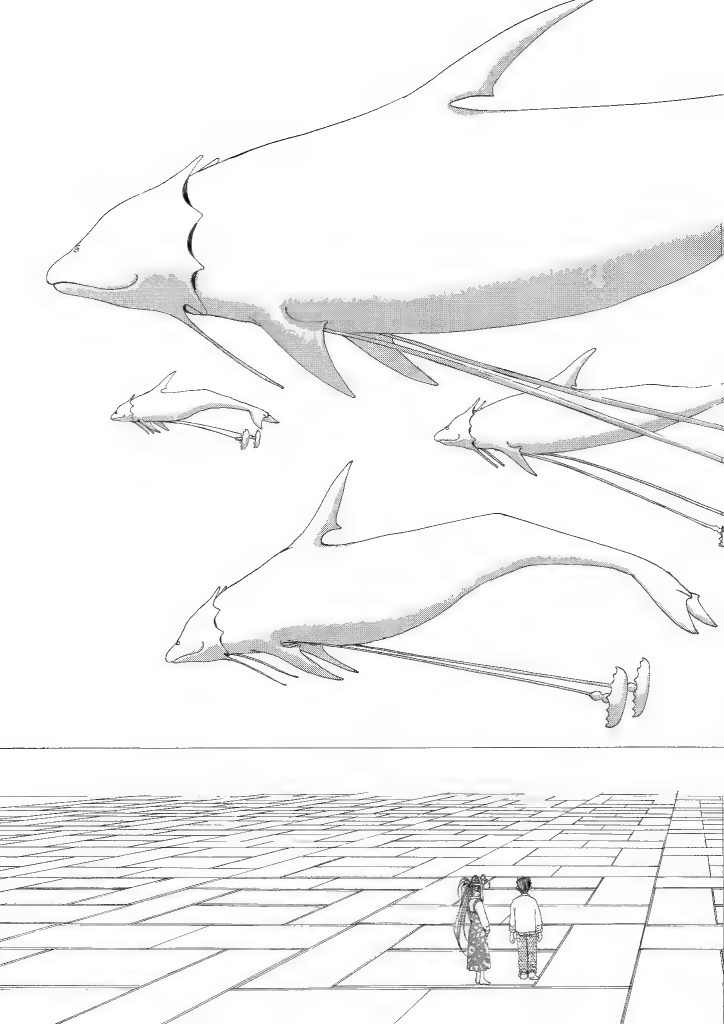
YOU... YOU *LEARNED* IT BY YOURSELF!
Missing time, I want back...

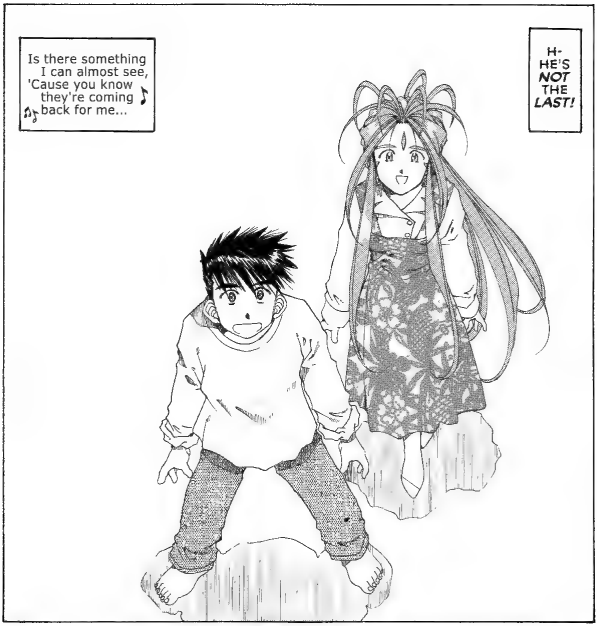
YOU KNOW... I WONDER IF HE KNOWS...
...WHAT THE LYRICS MEAN ...?

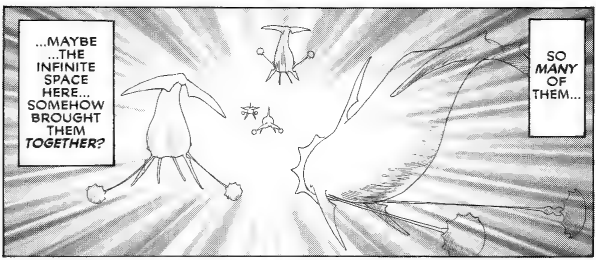
...
KEIICHI ...?


...AND ABOUT MEETING SOMEONE WHO LEADS YOU TO THAT HARD LESSON.
THAT IT'S A SONG ABOUT REALIZING THAT YOU'VE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES BECAUSE OF THE WAY THINGS WERE...
WHA--?!
BUT IT ALSO TALKS ABOUT THAT MISSING TIME HOLDING THE KEY...

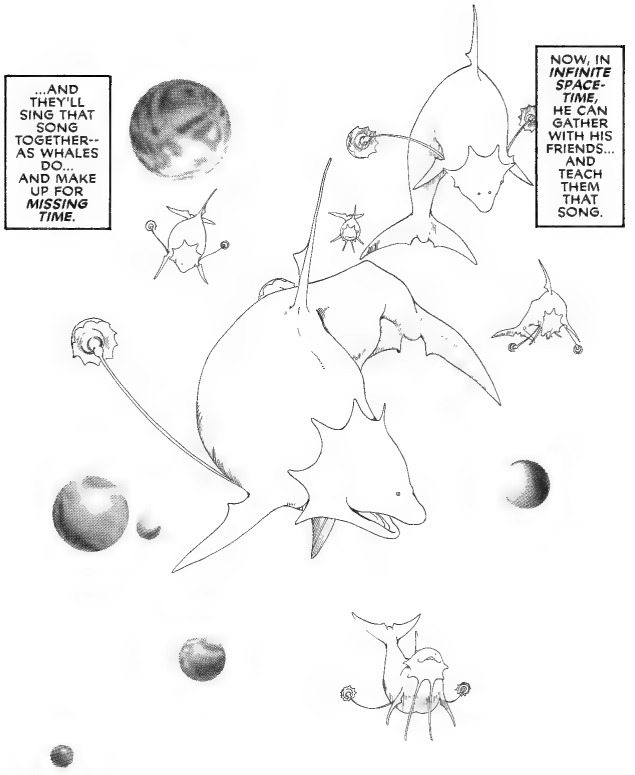





Is there something I can almost see, 'Cause you know they're coming back for me...
H-HE'S NOT THE LAST!


...MAYBE ...THE INFINITE SPACE HERE... SOMEHOW BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER?
SO MANY OF THEM...

♪♫
Missing time, Holds the key...
♪♪
Even as you watch us go, Finally you will know...
♫
...AND THE INFINITE SPACE SHRANK BACK DOWN TO NORMAL.
FINALLY THE SPACE DOUBLER'S BATTERIES RAN OUT...
AND SO...
SKRASH
ARGH!
DOES IT ALWAYS HAVE TO TURN OUT LIKE THIS?


...AND THEY'LL SING THAT SONG TOGETHER-- AS WHALES DO... AND MAKE UP FOR *MISSING TIME.*
NOW, IN *INFINITE SPACE-TIME,* HE CAN GATHER WITH HIS FRIENDS... AND TEACH THEM THAT SONG.

BRAAAP
WRECKING
BRAAP
BRUPPP
BRUP
...WHAT TH--?!
CHI-HIRO-SAN...

CHAPTER 110

What's on the Mountain Pass?

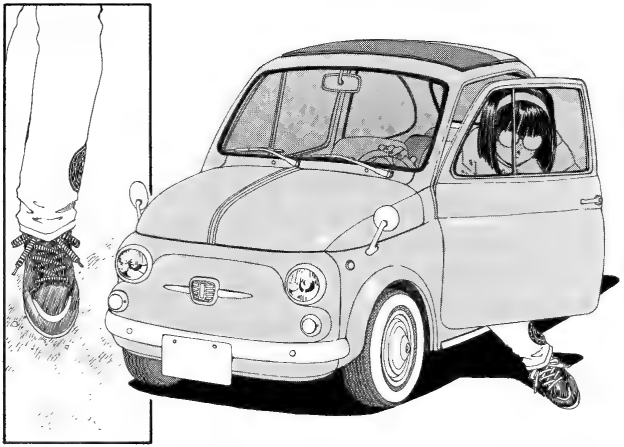
SHE'S ADORABLE!
HEH HEH HEH.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT?!
PRETTY COOL, HUH?
IT'S PACKING A KX-80 ENGINE!
ISN'T IT JUST?!

IT WAS SO CUTE, I JUST HAD TO HAVE IT!
AND WHAT'S MORE...
...SHE'S LONGING TO DRIVE.
OH! YOU CAN TELL?!
IT'S TRUE! IT MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT IT'S SUPER FAST!

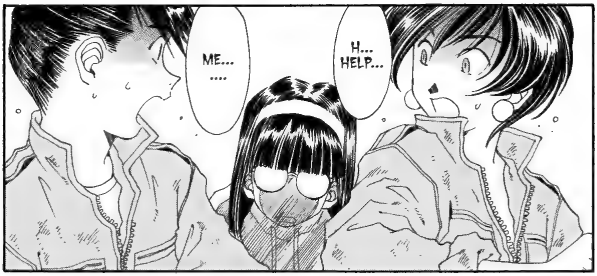
"WHY"...?! BECAUSE IT'S A RACER, THAT'S WHY!
WHY ?!
YOU'LL ENTER IT SOME-WHERE, RIGHT?
EH?
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO RACE IT?
AND SO...
NO WAY...
A RACING SIDEHACK LIKE THIS...? YOU CAN'T EVEN REGISTER IT!
IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY ROAD GEAR.*
WELL, YEAH-- WAY.

*ROAD GEAR: Required equipment for operating on public roads. Stuff like headlights, turn signals, and rearview mirrors!

S-SURE, BOSS.
KIDS AND PETS AND CUTESY MOTORCYCLES! I JUST CAN'T HELP MYSELF!
TEE-HEE!
PUTT PUTT PUTT
DON'T TELL ME YOU REALLY DIDN'T NOTICE...
RATS...
...BLINDED BY CUTE-NESS.

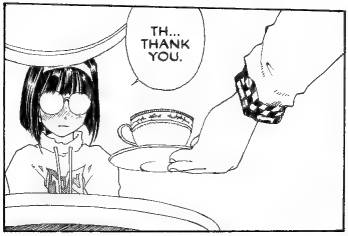


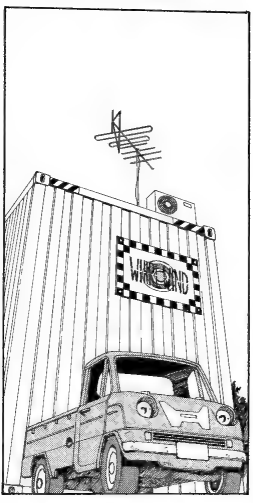
GOOD LUCK!! YOU'D HAVE TO--
THEN... HOW TO MAKE IT ROAD-WORTHY...


ME.....
H... HELP...

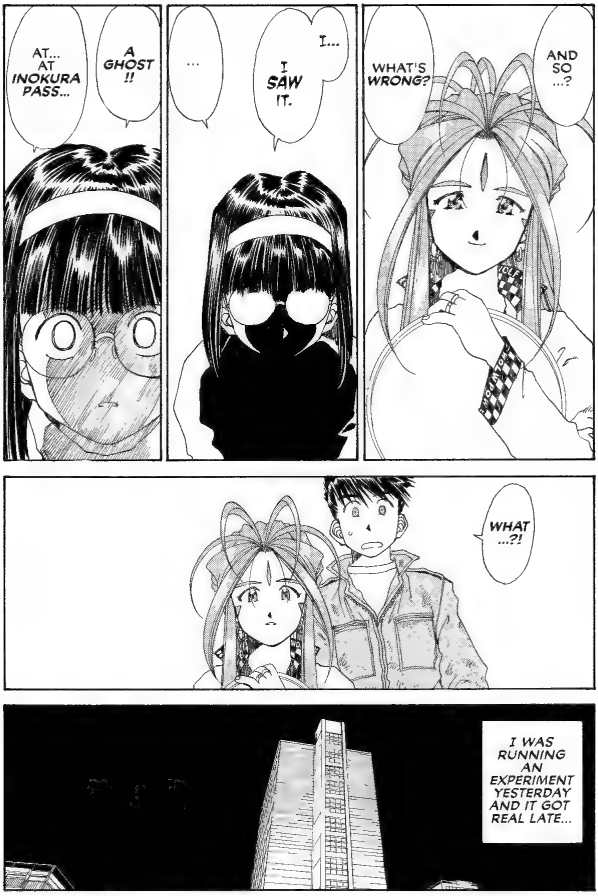
...PLEASE HELP ME!!
PLEASE...
HASE-GAWA ...?
...?

HELP ME, MISS BELL-DANDY!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN...


TH... THANK YOU.

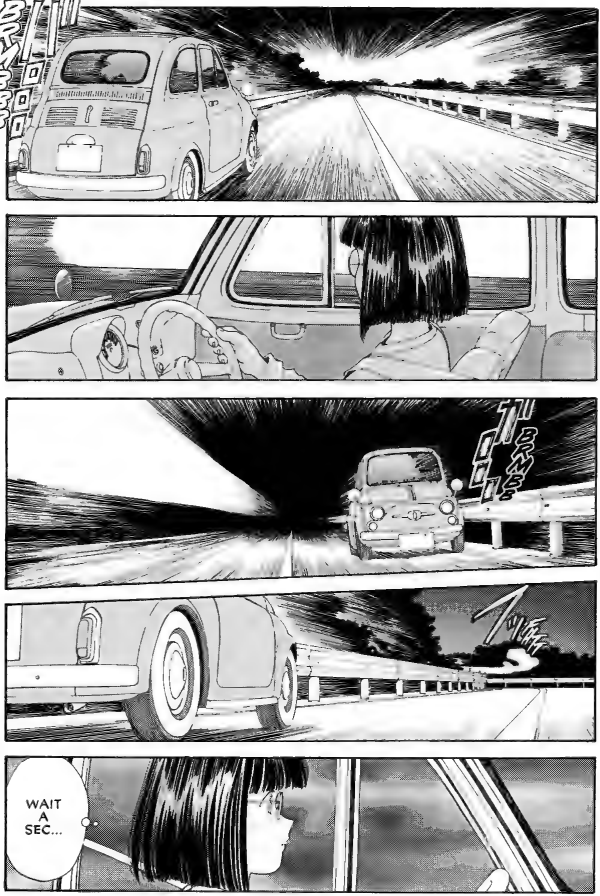


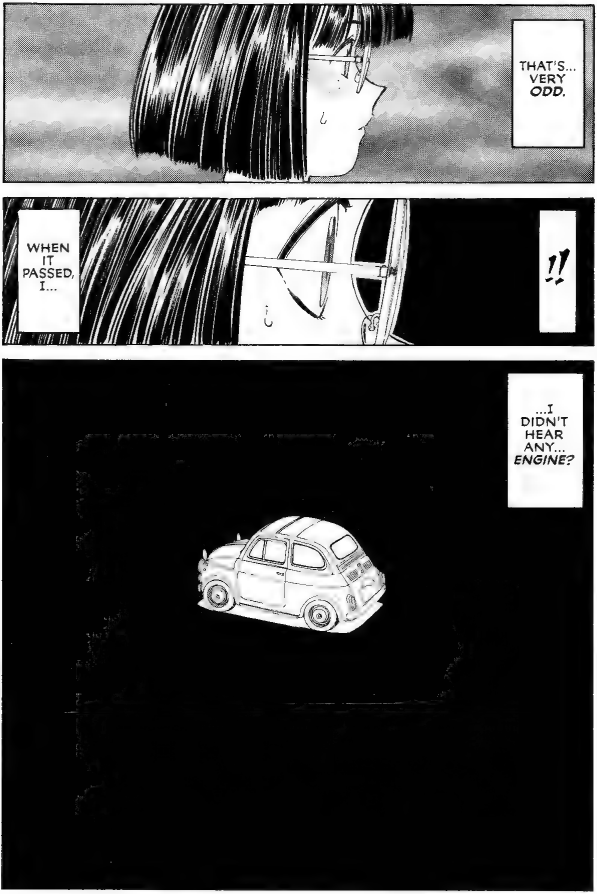
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER NOW?
YES, MA'AM.

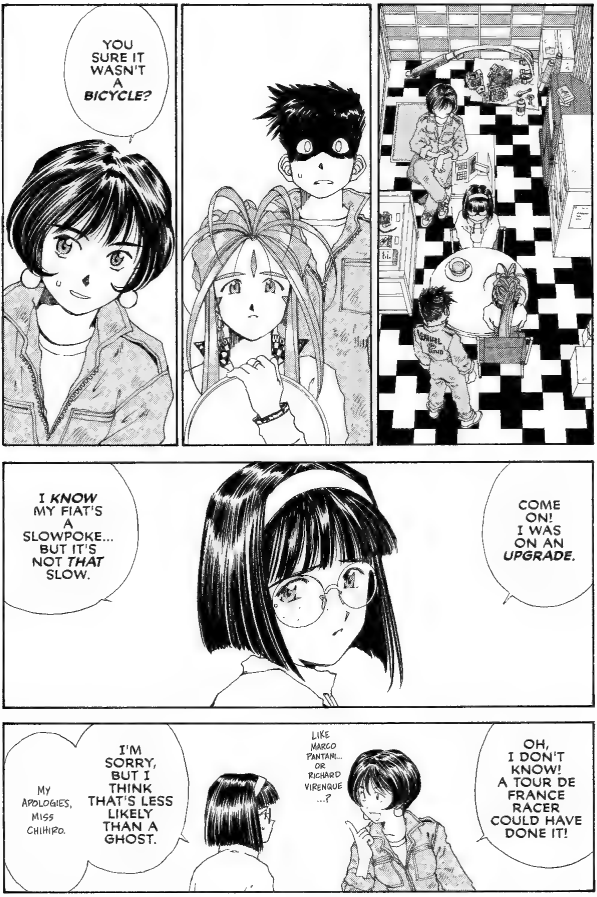

AND SO ...?
WHAT'S WRONG?
I... I SAW IT.
...
A GHOST !!
AT... AT INOKURA PASS...
WHAT ...?!
I WAS RUNNING AN EXPERIMENT YESTERDAY AND IT GOT REAL LATE...

SO I THOUGHT I'D TAKE A SHORTCUT HOME... OVER THE PASS.
THE PASS... THE ROAD TO THE INOKURA CAMPUS...
BRMB
GCHNK
COME ON, LITTLE FIAT! WE'RE ALMOST OVER THE TOP!

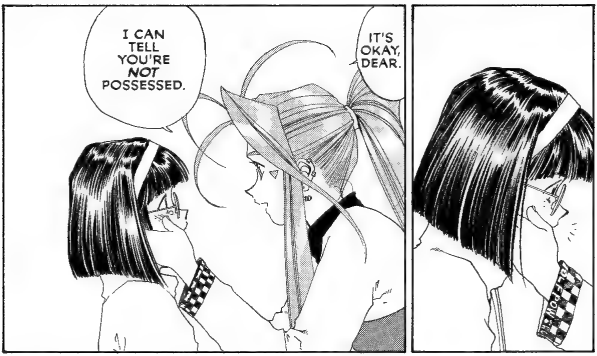
?!
WHO'S DRIVING A MOTOR-CYCLE THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
SHK
SHK
SLIP
I SHOULD TALK, MM...?
BETTER LET THEM PASS...
WELL


BRMMM
WAIT A SEC...

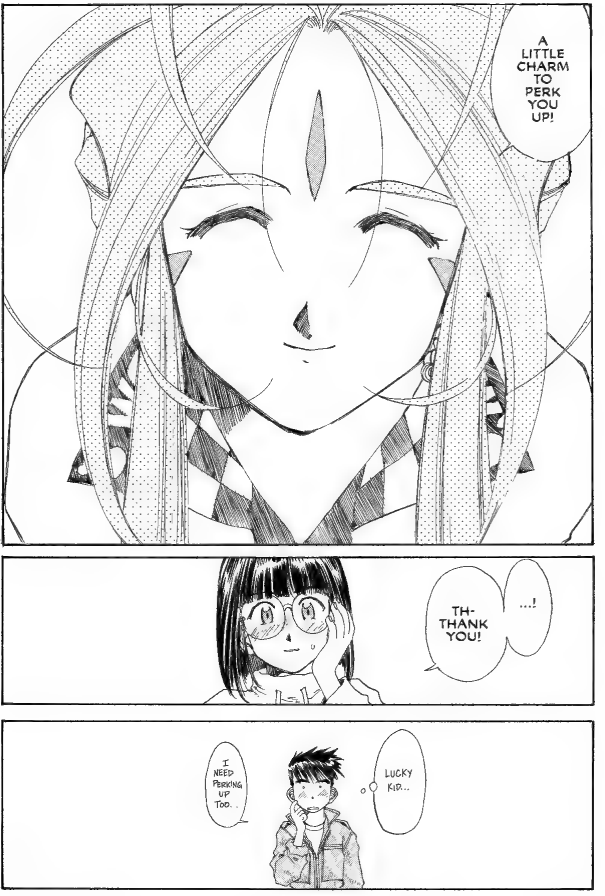

THAT'S... VERY *ODD.*
WHEN IT PASSED, I...
!!
...I DIDN'T HEAR ANY... *ENGINE?*

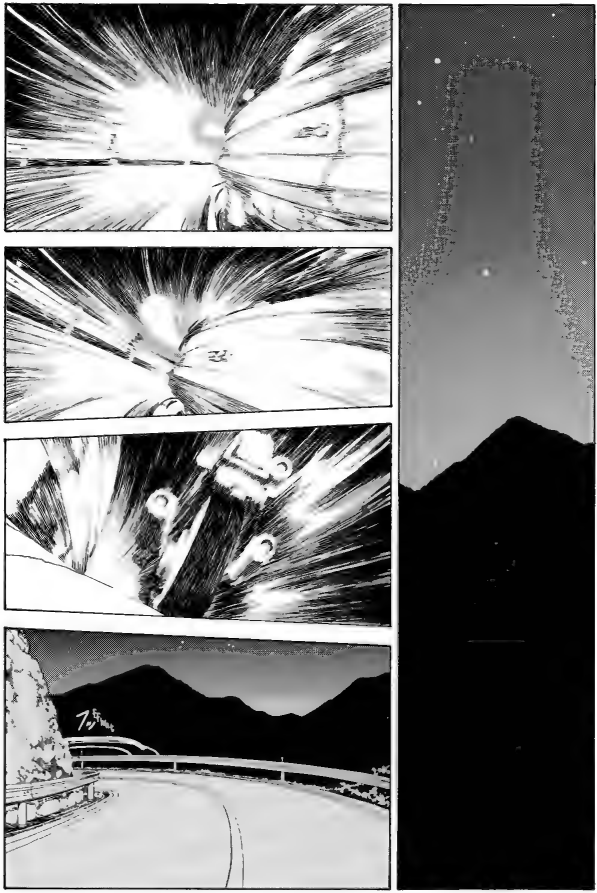

YOU SURE IT WASN'T A *BICYCLE?*
I *KNOW* MY FIAT'S A SLOWPOKE... BUT IT'S NOT *THAT* SLOW.
COME ON! I WAS ON AN *UPGRADE.*
MY APOLOGIES, MISS CHIHIRO.
I'M SORRY, BUT I THINK THAT'S LESS LIKELY THAN A GHOST.
LIKE MARGO PANTANI... OR RICHARD VIRENQUE ...?
OH, I DON'T KNOW! A TOUR DE FRANCE RACER COULD HAVE DONE IT!

WELL, WE SURE DIDN'T HAVE GHOST PROBLEMS IN MY DAY...
WH... WHAT SHOULD I *DO?*
I COULDN'T SLEEP A WINK LAST NIGHT...
...I KEPT THINKING THAT LIGHT WAS BEHIND ME...OR *INSIDE ME!*


IT'S OKAY, DEAR.
I CAN TELL YOU'RE *NOT* POSSESSED.

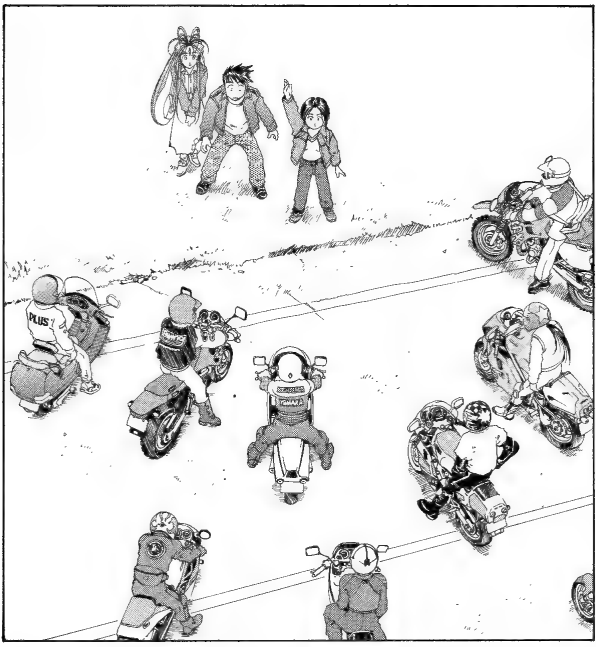
?
...I CAN'T DO THAT UNLESS SHE'S ACTUALLY POSSESSED. BUT...
...
HM.
WELL...
MAYBE WE COULD GIVE HER AN *EXORCISM* OR SOMETHING ANYWAY ...?
!

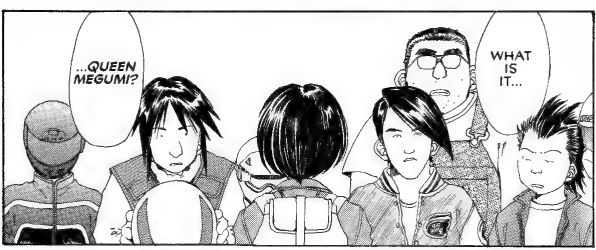

A LITTLE CHARM TO PERK YOU UP!
TH-THANK YOU!
...!
I NEED PERKING UP TOO...
LUCKY KID...

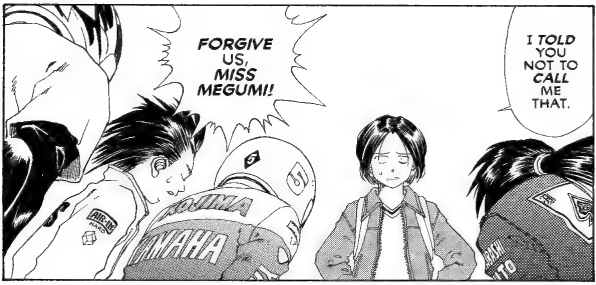


A GHOST? ON THE INOKURA PASS?

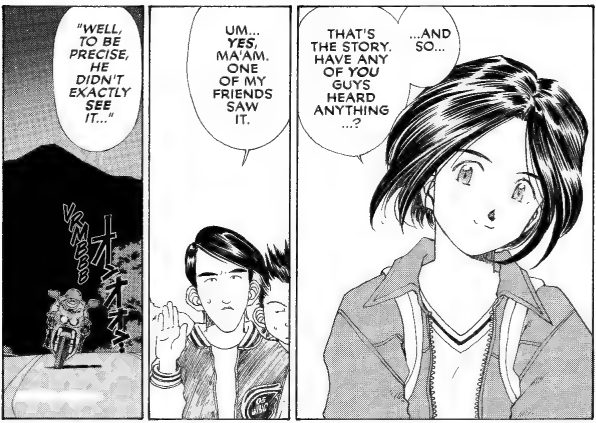
AND NOBODY'S EVER *MENTIONED* IT... BUT...
I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE...
BRMMM
VRRAAA
BRAPP!
RMBB
FWIP
LET ME CHECK...
?
HOLD THAT THOUGHT.


PLUS


...QUEEN MEGUMI?
WHAT IS IT...

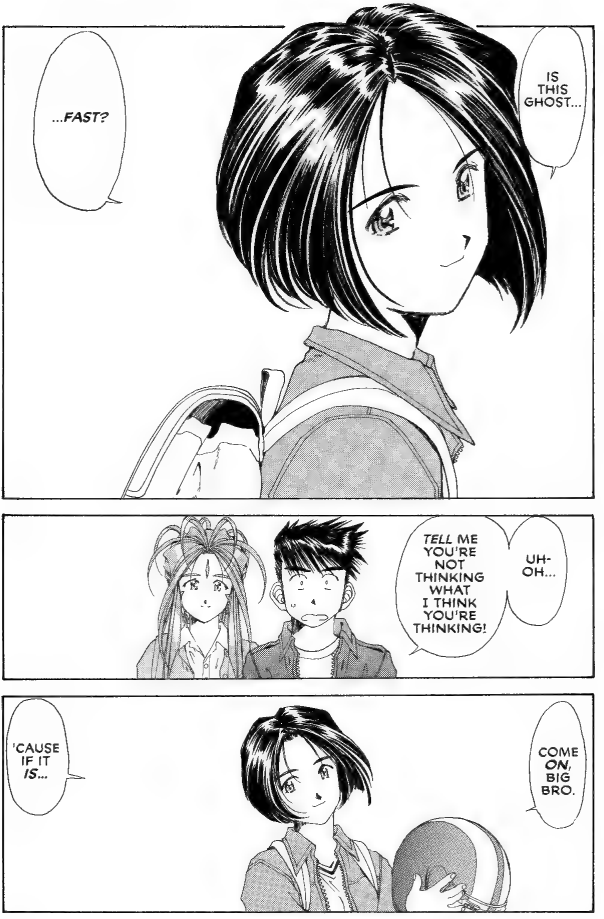

FORGIVE US, MISS MEGUMI!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME THAT.

IT MIGHT HELP IF YOU DIDN'T ACT LIKE ONE!


"WELL, TO BE PRECISE, HE DIDN'T EXACTLY SEE IT..."
UM... YES, MA'AM. ONE OF MY FRIENDS SAW IT.
THAT'S THE STORY. HAVE ANY OF YOU GUYS HEARD ANYTHING ...?
...AND SO...

HELL
VRAAA
!!
VRAAA
AND SO, LIKE, HE WAS PASSED... BY A SOUND!!
THERE WEREN'T NO BIKE!
ZZZ
OOOH! CREEPY!
VRMMBB
VRAAAA

OKAY, OKAY, ENOUGH ALREADY.
HA, HA, CLAP CLAP
... AND IT MORPHED INTO THIS GIANT DUDE, SEE, AND...
LIKE, TEN METERS LONG...
I HEARD IT WAS AN ELEPHANT ON A BIKE...
...THE GHOST PASSED HIM FIVE TIMES!
NO, NO, NO! THE WAY I HEARD IT...
KOJIMA
YAMAHA
UM... YEAH.
THE THING PASSED HIM, RIGHT? DO WE AT LEAST AGREE ON THAT?
DEAR BROTHER KEIICHI!!!
...SO.


IS THIS GHOST...
...FAST?
UH-OH...
TELL ME YOU'RE NOT THINKING WHAT I THINK YOU'RE THINKING!
COME *ON*, BIG BRO.
'CAUSE IF IT *IS*...

KSHAK
OF COURSE I'VE GOT...
...TO BEAT IT!!

GNNK GNNK GNNK
GCHAK!
BRAPP
BRAPPPP
GNK
エーフッ
FFFA

CHAPTER 111

Ghost Found

BRAAAA

HOW WELL YOU RUN!

C'MON AND SHOW ME, PAL

SO THIS IS MR. "GHOST," HUH?
IF YOU BELIEVE THE BUZZ, HE'S PRETTY DARN GOOD.
KSR
I CAN TAKE THIS PASS WITH MY EYES CLOSED!
HA! GOOD LUCK, PAL!!

...THE OTHER SIDE!
STILL, I DON'T STAND A CHANCE UPHILL. THE SHOW-DOWN'S ON.
VRRM
HERE HE COMES!

IF YOU'RE SHOWING OFF YOU'LL BE SORRY
HE'S NOT PASSING
?!
WHO
PFT
PFT

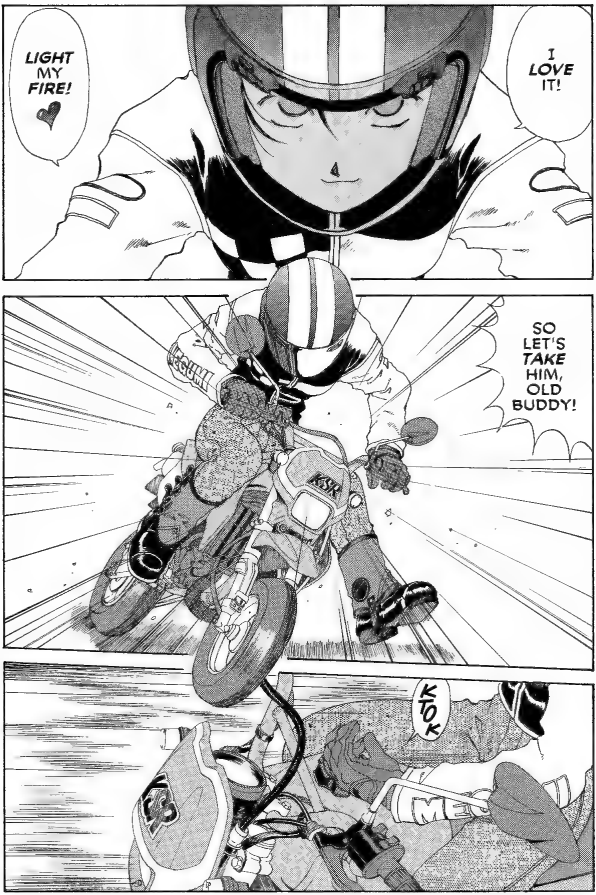
BRAAAA
SKREEEEE
TAP THE BRAKES THREE METERS BEFORE THE SIGN, RIDE UP ON THE TANK...
SLIDE INTO THE GROOVE TEN CENTI-METERS OFF THE CENTER LINE
NO ONE BEATS ME ON THE DOWN-GRADE!
BRAAA

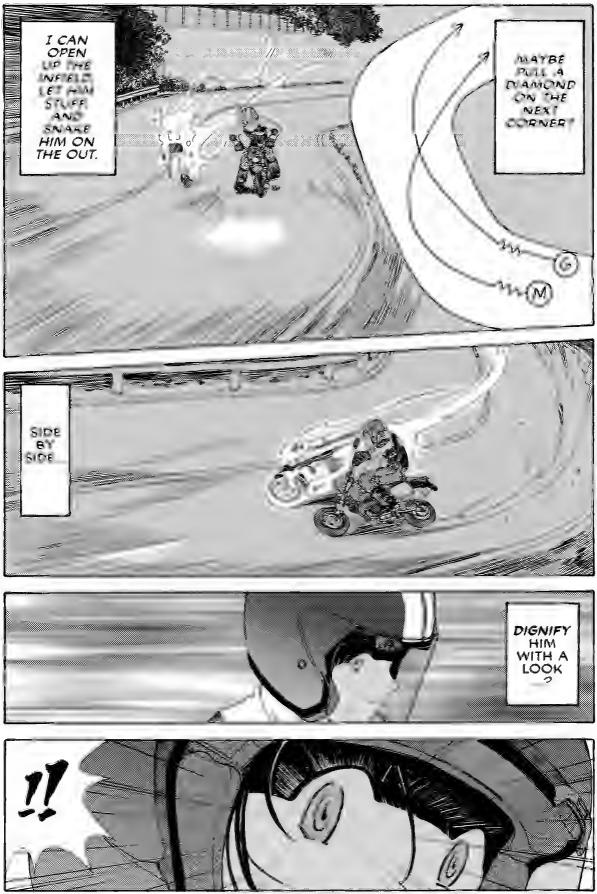
THEN LAY IT DOWN HARD!
TWIST HER TAIL... CRACK IT LOOSE...
SLIDE INTO A DRIFT...
SKREEEEE
SQUARING THE CORNER! MY ACE IN THE HOLE!
BRMPP

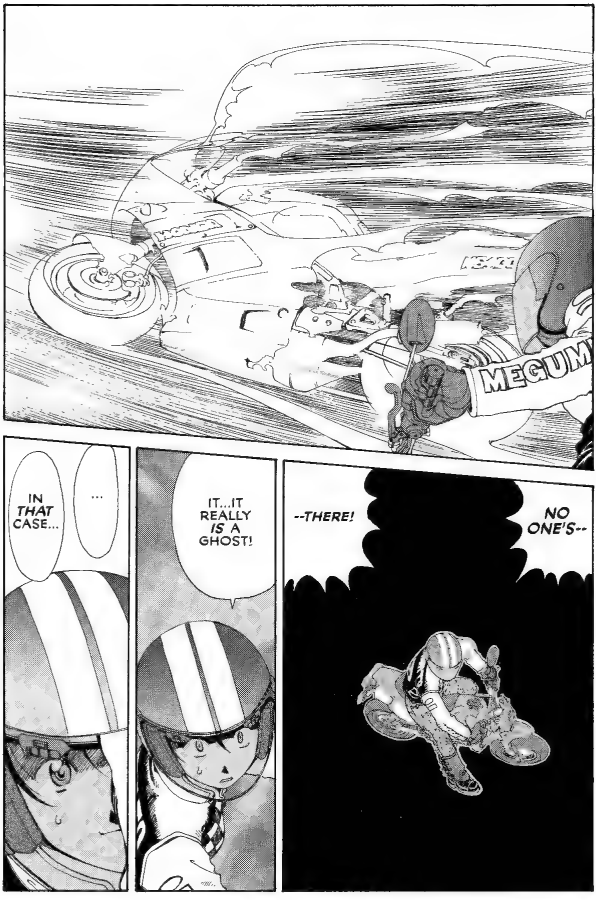
ちらっ
glance
AND GET ON THE PIPE!
HOOK THE RUBBER BACK UP...
BRAAAP
!!
KSR
I...I DIDN'T GAIN A BIT!

OKAY... THE INSIDE SHOULDER'S ROUGH HERE... GIVE IT ABOUT FIVE CENTI-METERS...
BRAAAAA
KNOBB
VRMM

VRMMM
VRMBO!
BRAAA
I WONDER WHO YOU ARE...?
NO ONE'S EVER CLIMBED UP MY PIPE LIKE THIS BEFORE!
OW.
KSR
MEC


I LOVE IT!
LIGHT MY FIRE!
SO LET'S TAKE HIM, OLD BUDDY!
KTOK


I CAN OPEN UP THE INFIELD, LET HIM STEW, AND SNARE HIM ON THE OUT.
MAYBE PULL A DIAMOND ON THE NEXT CORNER?
M
SIDE BY SIDE...
DIGNIFY HIM WITH A LOOK?
!!

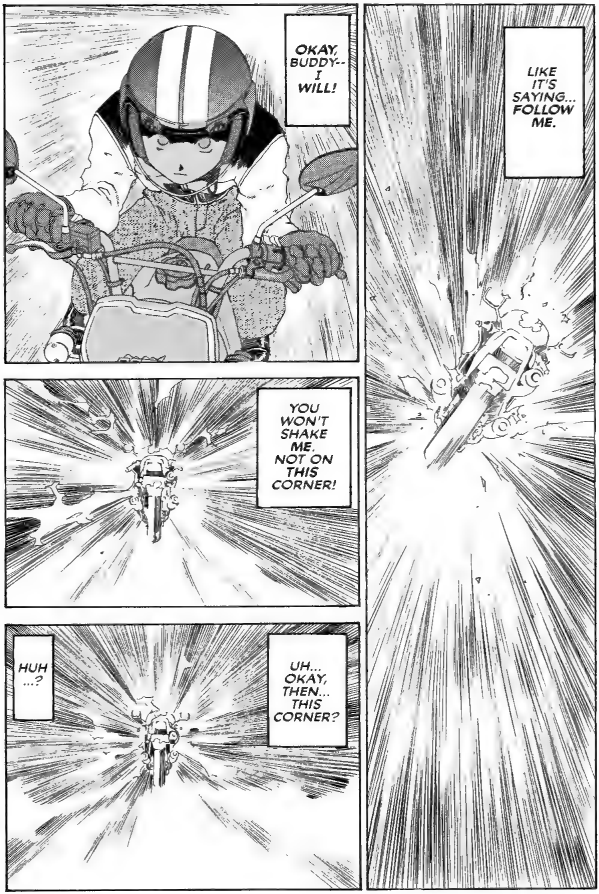

MEGUM
IN THAT CASE...
...
IT...IT REALLY IS A GHOST!
--THERE!
NO ONE'S--

...I'LL SHOW YOU THE WAY TO HEAVEN!
ORISATO
YOUR HEART
NERV
NOW... INSIDE!

SQRK
!!
MORISATO

H-
HE
DRIFTED
...?!
I...I'M
TOTALLY
OUT-
CLASSED!

WEIRD...
WATCH-ING IT TAKE THE CORNERS...
IT'S SO... MESMERIZ-ING...


OKAY, BUDDY-- I WILL!
LIKE IT'S SAYING... FOLLOW ME.
YOU WON'T SHAKE ME. NOT ON THIS CORNER!
HUH ...?
UH... OKAY, THEN... THIS CORNER?

HA! THEN ON THIS STRAIGHT!
WAIT A SEC.
WHDD
GCCH
SKREEEEE

THERE'S NO STRAIGHT AFTER THAT CORNER!!
MEGUMI
SKRSSSHH
SNK

WHY...
...DID YOU DO THAT...?
ヒョオオオオオオオオ

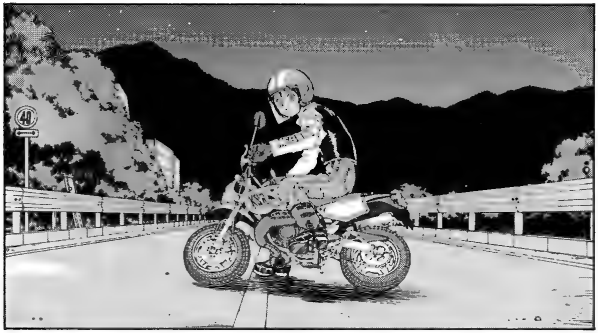
BRAAP
BRAAAA
...I GIVE YOU A FAIR BATTLE...
...AND THEN YOU HAVE TO CHEAT!
...?

NO WAY!
AFTER YOU PULLED THAT *DIRTY TRICK*?!
YOU *STILL* EXPECT ME TO *PLAY*?!
VRAAA

IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT...
OKAY, PAL! *FINE!*
I'LL *TAKE* YOU ON *ANYTIME!*
HEY ...!

IT'S *ME*, MEGUMI!

KEI-CHAN ...?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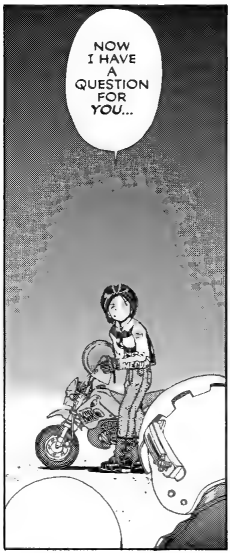
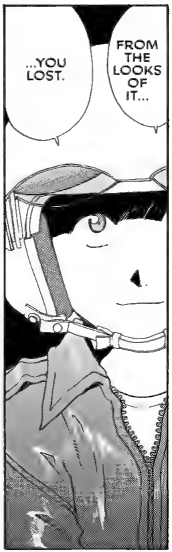
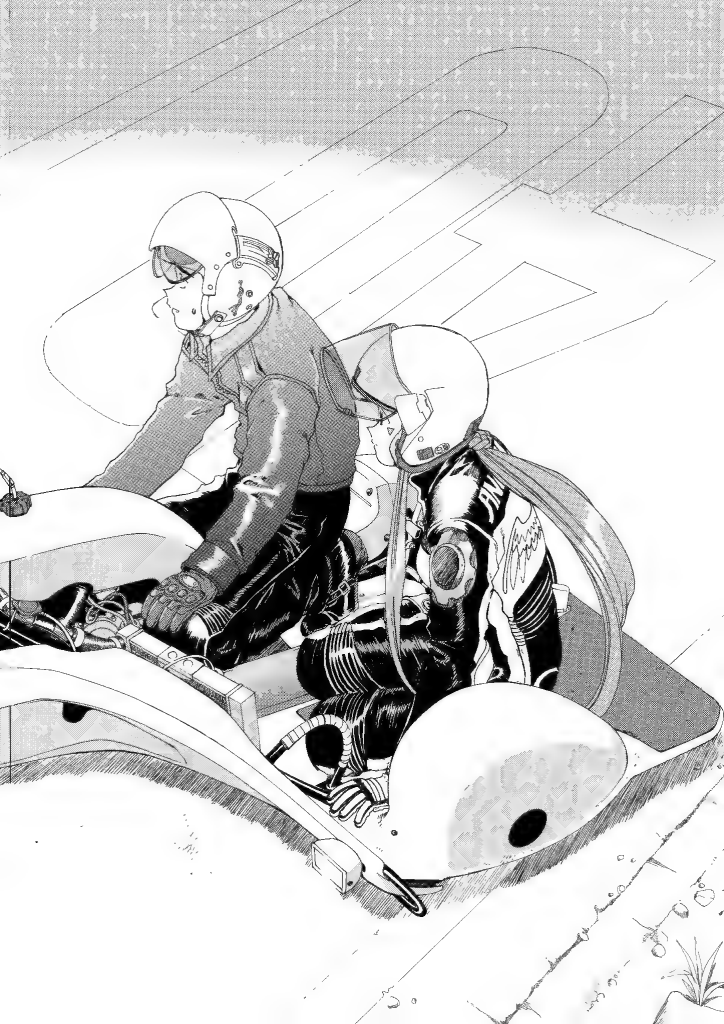

NOW I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU...

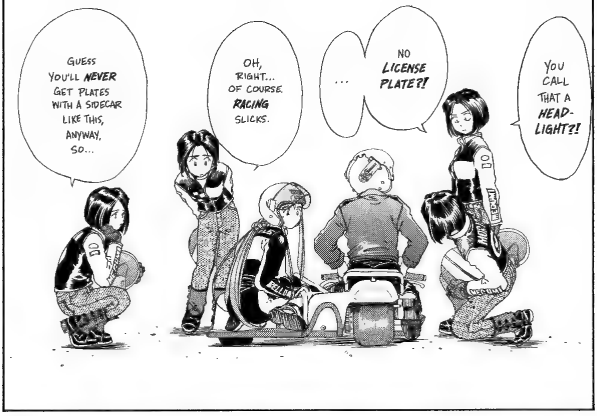
...I DID.
YEAH, WELL...

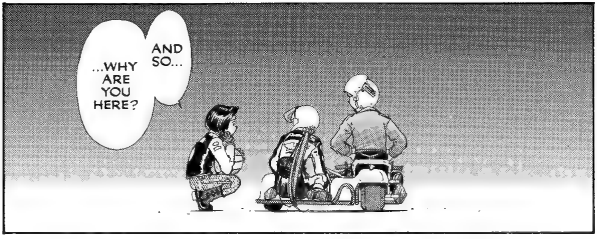

...YOU LOST.
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT...

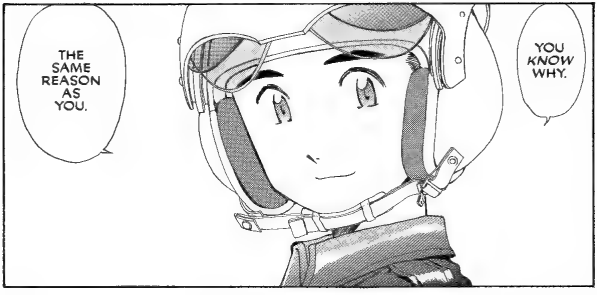


CHAPTER 112

Three Factors


GUESS YOU'LL NEVER GET PLATES WITH A SIDECAR LIKE THIS, ANYWAY, SO...
OH, RIGHT... OF COURSE. RACING SLICKS.
... NO LICENSE PLATE?!
YOU CALL THAT A HEAD-LIGHT?!


AND SO...
...WHY ARE YOU HERE?


THE SAME REASON AS YOU.
YOU KNOW WHY.

LIKE SISTER, LIKE BROTHER ...?
JUST LIKE.
GREAT! I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
FOR WHAT ...?
REVENGE ...!
UM. .

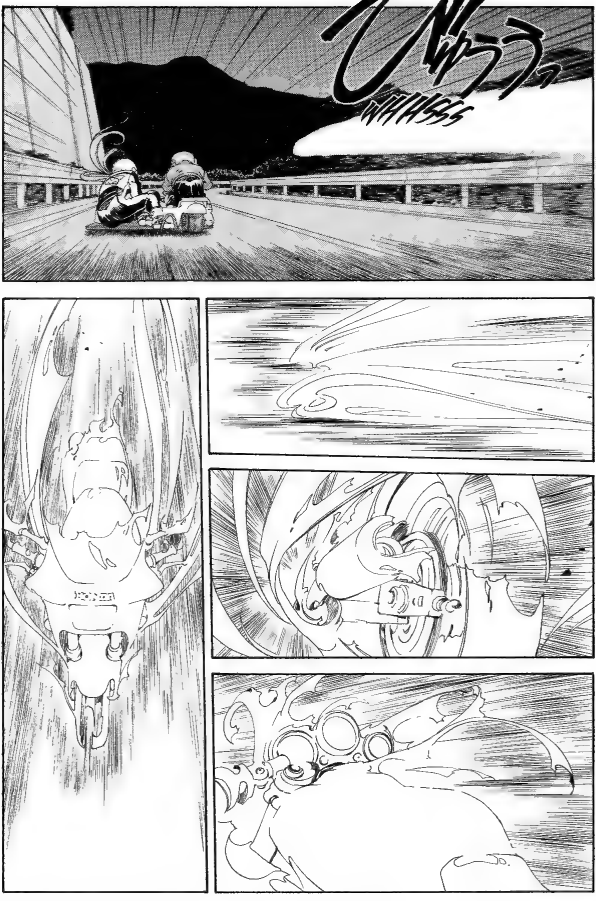
BRAAP
TUNK
BRAAAA

KEI-CHAN... HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED...
NOT ON THAT BASIS...
BUT MOST OF ALL IT'S BECAUSE I'M NOT
OF COURSE IT'S PARTLY DUE TO EMBARRASSMENT, PARTLY 'CAUSE IT'S SILLY...
WHY I DON'T LET THEM CALL ME THE QUEEN?

THERE'S ALREADY A QUEEN... AND A KING!
BELLDANDY

ZHOEI
SHEE
SKREEEE

SKREEEE
BRAAAP
WHISSHH
I KNOW.
KEIICHI


Uuu
WITHHSSS

I SENSE IT...
IT'S *REAL?*
CAN YOU TELL WHO IT IS?
YES. IT'S A KIND OF *SPIRIT.*
NO. NOT YET.
BUT I *CAN* TELL...

THAT MUCH IS CLEAR
IT WANTS TO RACE
THAT'S HOW IT OUGHT TO BE!
GOOD!
BRAAAAA

HERE
IT
COMES!

THESE TWO, ALSO...
WRONG. ....
NOT... WHAT I SEEK...
BRAAAAAD

ZHOEI
ニッ
!!
BELLDANDY
THE SIDECAR PASSENGER ISN'T JUST DEAD WEIGHT!
ZHOEI

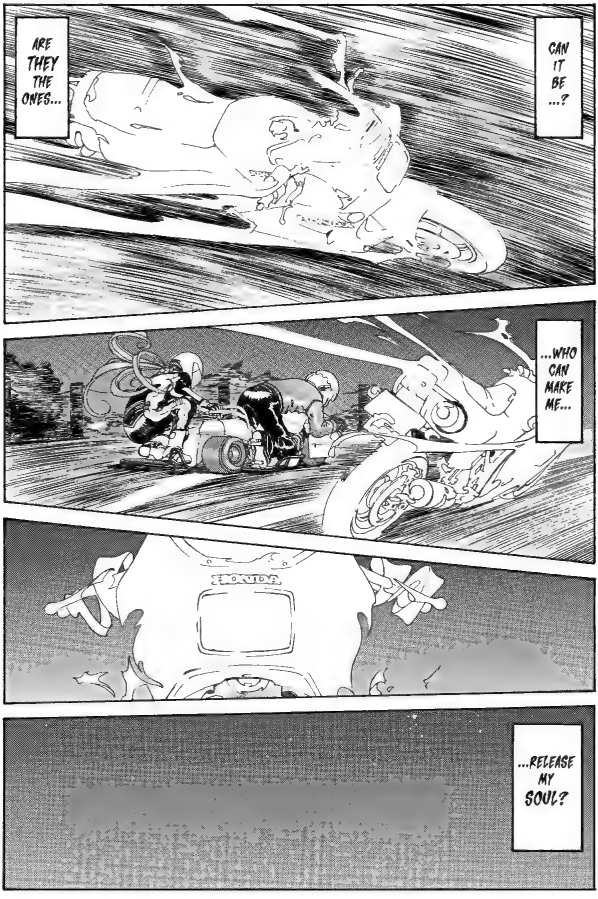
BELLDANDY
DELIBERATELY APPLYING LOAD, CONTROLLING THE DRIFT!
SKREEE

DRIVER AND PASSEN-GER...
...AND MACHINE.
BRAAAPPP
SKSSSH

EVEN SCRAPING THE PAVEMENT WHEN CORNERING LEFT!

WHEN ALL THREE MELD...

...A RACING BIKE...
VVVVV
BRAAAA
BRUT
BRAAAA
...DANCES UPON THE ASPHALT.


ARE THEY THE ONES...
CAN IT BE ...?
...WHO CAN MAKE ME...
HONDA
...RELEASE MY SOUL?

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NOTE: Full addresses and e-mail addresses will not be printed, unless you ask! All fan artwork, letters, and e-mails submitted become the property of Dark Horse Comics.

A while back, "Letters to the Enchantress" received a very interesting submission from reader Dwight R. Decker, editor of *Torch*, a fanzine published through CAPA-Alpha. The "C" in the name stands for "comics," whereas the "APA" stands for "amateur press association." If you've ever wondered about the ways fans around the country (or world) communicated with one another before the Internet, APAs played an important role. They're like fanzines or *doujinshi*, except (generally speaking) only contributors receive copies, and the contributors all participate in the printing of the issue as well.

Here is a typical way an APA might work: Suppose you have an issue made up of contributions from twenty different people. Each of those people is responsible for making twenty copies of their own contribution for that issue, either by photocopying them or (more typically nowadays) printing them out. Then each person mails those twenty copies to one person in the group (often called the central mailer), who assembles all twenty people's contributions for that issue together, therefore making twenty complete copies of that issue. The central mailer then mails a copy of each complete issue out to the contributors (part of the plan is that each contributor also gives the central mailer money to cover postage, or sends a self-addressed stamped envelope together with their contribution).

That may all sound rather convoluted, ^_^ but as mentioned, APAs have a long history, dating back more than a hundred years, in fact; H. P. Lovecraft was very active in contributing to APAs. Furthermore, the roots of Dark Horse Comics are in amateur press associations, too, and before our company was founded in 1986, the people who would become its president (Mike Richardson) and senior editors (Randy Stradley and Chris Warner), as well as Dark Horse creators like Frank Miller (*300*, *Xerxes*), Mark Verheiden (*The American*), and Paul Chadwick (*Concrete*), all used to network with each other by contributing to an APA called APA-5. Verheiden (today, coproducing with Steven Spielberg on the upcoming TNT series *Falling Skies*) founded APA-5 in 1971, explaining in the much-recommended anecdotal history of US comics, *Comics Between the Panels*, that it was only supposed to be a temporary name, based on the mistaken belief that theirs was the fifth APA to have been published; Chadwick remarked he joined APA-5 because he didn't feel worthy to join "CAPA-Alpha, the big APA."

And APAs exist even today—which brings us back to the aforementioned CAPA-Alpha publication we received, *Torch* issue #153 (or possibly #152; the cover and interior have different num-

bers). In this issue, Mr. Decker wrote a very interesting article on the Swedish edition of *Oh My Goddess!*, of which he had picked up the first ten volumes for reading practice (among his interests are the rich world of European comics, which offer an experience different from either US comics or manga). What makes the Swedish edition of *Oh My Goddess!* of particular interest, of course, is that the Goddess sisters (together with other characters and elements in *OMG!*) are inspired by the Old Norse religion; as Mr. Decker points out, a thousand years ago, people in Sweden *literally* revered Verdandi, Urd, and Skuld. Wait a minute—"Verdandi"?

If you bust out your copy of *Oh My Goddess!* Vol. 2, on pages 182–183, Toren Smith (founder of Studio Proteus, and the person originally responsible for bringing *OMG!* and many other manga to North America) discusses the reasoning behind how these characters' names are spelled in the Roman alphabet (which is, of course, a transliteration of how they were spelled in Japanese *kana*, which was itself ultimately a transliteration from yet a third form of writing, the runes in which the Old Norse sagas were originally written—and yes, these are the very runes Belldandy uses to cast fortunes, as seen in vol. 15; did you know that Dark Horse once considered selling an *Oh My Goddess!* rune-casting set, and went so far as to produce a prototype?). "Urd" and "Skuld" have long been, more or less, accepted spellings of two of these personages, but, prior to the *Oh My Goddess!* manga, no one had ever spelled the third sister as "Belldandy," but rather as "Verdandi" or "Verthandi."

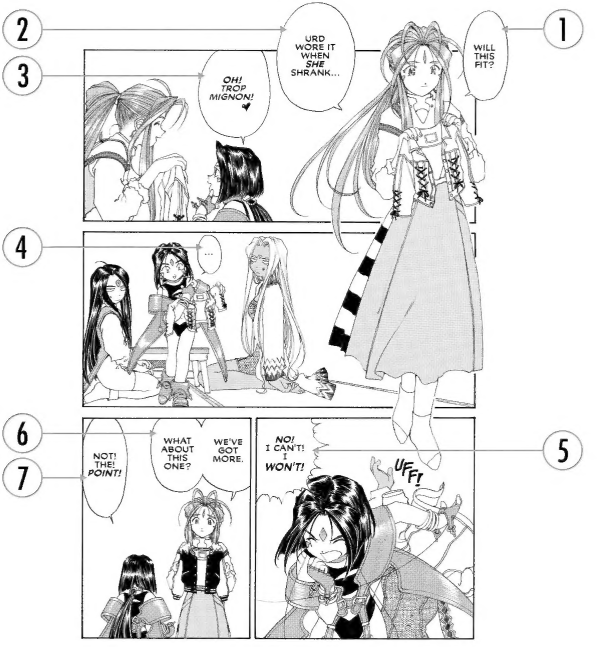
Mr. Decker reports that in the back of the first Swedish volume of *Oh My Goddess*!, there's a short essay entitled "Nordisk Mytologi, Verdandi och Belldandy," which acknowledges the fact that the character's name is spelled "Belldandy" in the Roman alphabet everywhere else in the world, "but in Swedish we have written her name the way it is written in the sagas of the gods. When all is said and done, this is how we have spelled Verdandi's name for centuries." Fair enough, or as they might say in Sweden, *rimlig*!

—CGH

A panel from the Swedish version of *Oh My Goddess!* Vol. 1. Note they went so far as to "correct" the spelling of Belldandy's name on her business card! Well, she *is* "from there," originally . . .

STOP! This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English, but arranged in right-to-left reading format to maintain the artwork's visual orientation as originally drawn and published in Japan. If you've never read comics this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right-hand corner, and will read each word balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take a little getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun! If this is the millionth manga you've read this way, never mind. ^_^



COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS/MANGA/GENERAL

Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 18

WHO WOULD HAVE EVER THOUGHT one of Skuld's inventions could go wrong? Er . . . don't answer that, but her tinkering with the time-space continuum has left Belldandy and Keiichi trapped inside their own living room . . . because it's now *infinitely* big! And uncanny events await them outside as well, as a ghost haunts the mountain pass between the two campuses of NIT . . . causing Bell and K1 to do a night ride in tandem to solve the mystery! Plus your fan art and letters!

Winner of the 33rd Kodansha Manga Award, *Oh My Goddess!* is the longest-running manga title in English!

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